

Loaded Kalashnikovs in Cortina

Police appeal over Irishman in gun chase

By MARK SOISTER

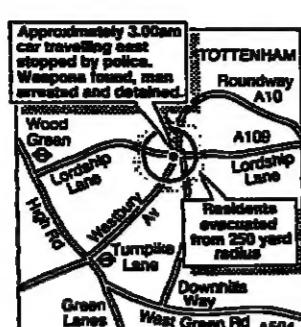
A YOUNG Irishman was being questioned at a London police station last night after guns were found in his Ford Cortina in the early hours of yesterday morning.

The car was stopped by a squad car in Wood Green after a high-speed chase through north London. A number of weapons were found inside, including two AK-47 Kalashnikov rifles, which were loaded and ready for use.

Last night, the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch issued an urgent appeal for help in finding where the man was living. Commander George Churchill-Coleman, who is leading the hunt for the IRA active service units responsible for the bombings at Eltham and Wembley last week, said: "It is absolutely essential we find out where this man was living and quickly."

Police also appealed for help in finding a red Peugeot 205, index number H1W 2221 "or similar" that was believed to have been following the Cortina when it was stopped. The registration number is from Londonderry.

A vehicle matching that description, with a number one digit different, was found in the car park of the Pavilion public house in Shepherds Bush, west London, yesterday afternoon, and four men were questioned. However, no connection with the incident in north London has been established last night. On previous operations in man-



replied, "yes". Mr Theodou said he was certain the rifle was a Kalashnikov because it had a curved magazine.

Within minutes, a 250-yard area was cordoned off and members of the anti-terrorist branch examined the Cortina, which had stopped at an angle near the junction of Lordship Lane and Westbury Avenue. The boot and bonnet were inspected and the back seat and side panels from the doors removed. Forensic scientists examined the car for several hours before it was removed at about 9.30 am. Homes near by were evacuated because of fears of a possible bomb. They congregated at a public house until the all clear was given.

It is understood that the AK-47s were probably dug up from a cache outside London.

If that were the case, it would suggest that the IRA had returned to the method it used in the late 1970s with mainland operations, avoiding storing weaponry in the capital.

There were two important semtex finds in north London last year, one at Stoke Newington and another on Hampstead Heath.

The police squad car stopped in Lordship Lane, Wood Green, at 3am yesterday after it was seen being driven erratically, and officers found the guns on the back seat. The weapons were said to be loaded and ready for use and, according to one report, had only recently been dug up. Scotland Yard discounted reports that semtex explosive had also been recovered.

Scotland Yard refused to confirm a spate of conflicting reports about the incident yesterday. One witness spoke of at least two men in the vehicle with one having escaped over a fence. Another told of a man escaping in a back-up vehicle.

Mr Costas Theodou, who owns a kebab restaurant in Lordship Lane, said that one of the two officers who stopped the Cortina found the rifles on the back seat. "He took a gun from the car, loaded a magazine, checked it and threw it back. He did this four times. I was a bit shocked," Mr Theodou said he heard one officer ask his colleague if the weapon was real, to which he

replied, "yes".

London connection, page 22



The arrested man: Urgent hunt to find his home

INSIDE
Vandals on patrol

Some private guards patrolling Britain's military bases have criminal records or have committed acts of vandalism while on duty, the Commons defence committee disclosed today. Others are "so hopeless" they are afraid of the dark or too weak to lift a security barrier. Page 2

Police 'crisis' Battered by media criticism, unsupported by ministers and hamstrung by financial cuts, Britain's police are facing a crisis, the Police Federation was told. Page 2

M1 verdict

The jury at the inquest on the 47 people who died when the British Midland jet crashed on the M1 near Kegworth recorded a verdict of accidental death. Page 3

Comedian dies

MAX Wall, the comedian, whose 60-year career spanned music hall, radio, television and serious theatre, died yesterday aged 82. Page 3

Obituary, page 14

Scargill warning

Mr Arthur Scargill said that industrial action might be necessary to protect 7,500 jobs that British Coal said are expected to be lost. Page 6

Yeltsin's chance Mr Boris Yeltsin's chances of being elected President of the Russian Federation improved dramatically yesterday after a powerful speech. Page 10

Shares rise

Overseas buying lifted share prices on the London stock market through the 2300 level in thin trading conditions yesterday. Page 23

INDEX

UN to report on global warming

By MICHAEL McCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations' official and sombre warning to the world that global warming has begun will be issued from a meeting beginning today in a Surrey hotel.

Seventy of the world's leading meteorologists have assembled in Englefield Green, Egham, to agree the final report of their 18-month investigation into the scientific reality of the greenhouse effect. When it is published on Friday, it is likely to tell sceptical policy-makers that in the next 30 years the earth is likely to heat more quickly than ever in man's history.

The meteorologists are the members of Working Group One of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the body set up by the UN Environment Programme and the World Meteorological

Prince's vision, page 3

John Middox, page 12

Letters, page 13

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
BUCHAREST

MRS EDWINA Currie, attired in bright red shoes and red polka-dot dress, walked into a Balkan-style controversy yesterday as she praised the conduct of an election won by a crypto-communist landslide that opposition politicians have likened to the vote-rigging practised under Nicolae Ceausescu.

"I could strangle that woman," declared Mr Bertie Way, British media adviser to the failed right-wing presidential candidate, Mr Ion Ratiu, as she brushed aside his invitation for a meeting, or viewing of a video cassette by which he claimed showed details of strong-arm tactics and fraud by the triumphant National Salvation Front.

Mrs Currie, having spent 41 sleepless hours observing the poll in and around Timisoara, the birthplace of the Decem-

ber revolution, looked unruffled. "I am 99.9 per cent certain that it was a darned good vote, and that the government was properly elected," she insisted.

Minutes earlier Mrs Currie, together with her Labour colleague, Mr Robert Wareing, the MP for Liverpool/West Derby, had effectively hijacked a press conference being given by 12 local government officers who were the official observer team dispatched by the British Government. After her late, uninvited arrival, few of them could get a word in.

As well as airing her strong and energetically researched views on the fairness of the poll — which were in direct contradiction to the strong criticism made earlier by a 34-strong delegation from the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights — Mrs Currie also informed her audience

that food shortages in Romania had mainly been eliminated, and even told a Ceausescu egg story.

It was a virtuoso performance in show-stealing which left the British local government officials deprived of their moment of glory. Their own similarly controversial view that the election was conducted "in great fairness and freedom" was forgotten, as Romanian journalists and politicians queued to question Mrs Currie.

From Ireland, from Finland, from the United States as well, the questioners tried again and again to find a crack in her confidence that the election had been satisfactorily run and accurately reflected the views of the population. "You are asking us to prove the

Continued on page 22, col 2

Claim to past glories, page 10



The sails that beat the world

By ALAN HAMILTON

THOUSANDS of spectators, apparently including every Kiwi in Britain, packed the quayside to applaud Steinlager 2's win in the most thrilling finish to the Whitbread Round The World Yacht Race since it was first sailed in 1968. The 33ft ketch is the only boat in the event's history to have won the race outright as well as all six individual legs.

After 128 days' sailing and 32,932 nautical miles of ocean from the Needles to the Horn and back, Peter Blake and his 15-man crew sailed Steinlager 2 into the nautical record books at 5.23pm on a brilliant English spring day with their closest rival, Grant Dalton, a fellow New Zealander on the ketch Fisher & Paykel, only two miles and less than 30 minutes behind.

Competitors left Fort Lauderdale in Florida 17 days ago on the last leg. In third place last night was Merit, a surprisingly successful entry from land-locked Switzerland, followed by Rothmans, skippered by Lawrie Smith, the first British boat home.

On Monday night the two New Zealand leaders were virtually neck and neck off Land's End, but yesterday's light headwind appeared to suit Steinlager 2 better. Off Bournemouth Bay she rigged her mizzen staysail, the equivalent of kicking in a car turbo charger, and began to open the gap, passing the Needles at more than 11 knots and with a three-mile lead. She passed Calshot Spit and entered Southampton Water with her rust-red spinnaker billowing in the light air.

In the sheltered water she almost lost what little wind there was, and finished at a crawl.

Race report, page 44

David Miller, page 44

Nato declares Warsaw Pact dead

From MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, BRUSSELS

BRITAIN warned her Nato partners yesterday against implementing dramatic changes in Alliance military strategy for up to five years, despite unanimous agreement here that a military threat from the Warsaw Pact no longer existed.

A timetable for change in Alliance doctrine, proposed by Britain at Nato's Defence Planning Committee, was tied to two additional conditions — that arms cuts proposed at the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna had been implemented by Moscow, and that Soviet forces had effectively withdrawn from Eastern Europe.

Perhaps aware that Germans might not accept too long a delay in cutting force levels in central Europe, British officials indicated that it might not be necessary to wait until all CFE cuts had been implemented and all Soviet troops had gone home. One official gave 1995 as the date for full implementation of

proposed CFE cuts. But Nato would have to feel very confident that the processes leading to "a new world" were well under way, the British sources said. If these conditions were not met, Nato would have to think again. Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, said that there could be a delay in reaching a CFE agreement.

The British position yesterday set a marker for Alliance discussions on a post-Cold War Nato. It was made

clear here that there are currently two reviews under way, one embracing all security and political issues for a reshaped Europe, on lines proposed by President Bush, and the second, which could take well into next year to complete according to Britain, a military review by Nato's international staff. They are considering practical difficulties of deploying smaller multinational forces in Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

Labour taxation fight with Tories

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE people will gain rather than lose under Labour's tax proposals. Mr John Smith insisted yesterday as the Conservatives made the economy the main target of their summer offensive against the Opposition.

With Westminster suddenly locked in pre-election skirmishing, the tax controversy spilled over into the chamber with Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, accusing the Tories of being "the biggest taxers in history" and the Prime Minister issuing a warning that even people on medium incomes such as teachers and nurses would suffer under Labour's proposals.

The fall in cattle sales came after opinion polls at the weekend suggested that up to a quarter of adults had stopped eating beef because of worries about mad cow disease. Despite these findings, retail trade sources said yesterday that consumer demand was likely to be low. Mr Robertson said.

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The fall in cattle

Ministry blamed for poor security standards

By MARK SOISTER

THE Government was blamed last night for the poor standard of many private security guards at sensitive military establishments by invariably awarding contracts on the basis of cost not quality.

The British Security Industry Association and the Transport and General Workers' Union said the Ministry of Defence placed too much emphasis on cost when awarding contracts at the expense of proper vetting.

Mr David Fletcher, chief executive of the BSIA, said this meant that a "rag bag of second division security firms can end up guarding highly sensitive establishments with sub-standard personnel simply because they were the cheapest".

The BSIA, which represents most of the United Kingdom's main security companies, imposes strict vetting and training requirements it believes, as does Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, that there will always be a role for private security guards, of the appropriate calibre, at military installations to allow highly trained troops to be better deployed.

Mr Fletcher said he would welcome legislation which would bring into line those "rogue" security firms through the imposition of minimum standards of competence. The industry should also be regulated and greater access allowed to police criminal records but it is confronted by a Government ideologically opposed to the concept.

Britain is virtually alone in Europe in that police did not check employees entering the guarding industry, he said. A Green Paper in 1979 recommended some form of regulation but Labour and the incoming Conservative administration advocated self-regulation, a philosophy and ideology which still existed.

The BSIA has its own screening system dating back 20 years, whereby exhaustive checks are made on an individual's background.

Mr Jack Dromey, who represents seven industrial unions at the ministry, said: "For seven years we have repeatedly warned ministers at the MoD that their obsession with what is cheapest threatens security and the lives of both service personnel and our members."

Ex-criminals guarding MoD sites shock MPs

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

PRIVATE guard patrols at Britain's military bases include former criminals, convicted of vandalism while on duty or turn out to be hopeless because they are afraid of the dark or are physically feeble, according to the Commons defence committee.

The committee's much-leaked report today relates an appalling inventory of failings by private security firms, which are being used as a cost-cutting exercise to guard 56 defence sites. The blame is put squarely on defence ministers who favour contracts based on much lower pay rates than those paid to Ministry of Defence guards.

"That commercial security guards should be unable to prevent occasional criminal damage on dispersed civilian sites is understandable if regrettable. But that they should themselves indulge in an apparent spree of vandalism on a MoD site; that it should not even be an isolated occurrence, but one matched by employees of other companies at other MoD sites; and that MoD should not be able instantly to remove the security guards for lack of a viable alternative boggles belief."

Mr Bruce George, a Labour MP on the committee, said: "I have always said there will be an issue that will compel the Government to face the inevitable; that there must be a system of licensing for private security firms. History will say it was MoD that finally focused attention on the growing weakness of the British private security industry."

The MPs were also allowed access to the unpublished 1988 report on commercial security firms carried out by the Association of Chief Police Officers. They reported: "We cannot overlook the weight of evidence presented to us on the private security industry which demonstrates its inability to ensure that it does not employ proven criminals or those with criminal intentions."

Last night, Reliance Security Services, which guarded the Deal site, called for a "more realistic approach" by the MoD to rates of pay and access for private security firms to criminal records.

The Physical Security of Military Installations in the UK: Defence Committee Sixth Report (Stationery Office; £15.45)



The artist Henry Mee with his new portrait of the Queen at Sotheby's yesterday

TERRORIST ARMS FIND

A home-from-home for would-be IRA bombers

By DAVID SAPSTED

ONE week ago an IRA bomb exploded under an Army van outside a recruiting office in Wembley, prompting a senior Scotland Yard detective to say there were more safe houses for the Provos in north London than there were bedrooms at the Hilton Hotel.

His remark, made only half in jest, was being echoed yesterday after the apparently fortuitous arrest of one man in a car allegedly transporting automatic weapons through Wood Green, north London.

With its large and itinerant Irish population living in a maze of flats and rented houses, north London has long been acknowledged by the anti-terrorist squad as offering a home-from-home

for any would-be Republican terrorist. It is regarded as an "ideal" area where police are invariably regarded suspiciously, if not with the outright hostility demonstrated in the Broadwater Farm riots in 1985, and one which has seen some of the most significant IRA arms finds in recent years.

Two such finds were made last year: in October more than 50lb of Semtex and other terrorist paraphernalia discovered in Clapham, south London, in December 1983 – led to the start of a trial at the Central Criminal Court earlier this month of two men from Wood Green who deny giving support to the Provisional unit using the flat.

Apart from the Wembley blast, north London's most significant terrorist outrage in recent years was the bombing of the Inglis Barracks at Mill Hill – again close to the scene of yesterday's arrest – in August 1988. That explosion killed one soldier and injured nine others and the culprits have not been caught.

This month's bombing at Wembley, however, and the one two days earlier at the Army Education Directorate in Eltham, south London, are believed to have been carried out by a new breed of IRA terrorist, trained in the Republic and despatched to Britain and the Continent last summer. Security sources in Northern Ireland have been concerned for a long time that the IRA has been increasing recruitment in the Republic.

Republican youth organizations are monitored by British intelligence and the RUC's Special Branch, making it more difficult for the IRA to use "players" unknown to security forces. In the Republic police do not have the resources to maintain close monitoring.

Recent bombings are not believed to have been carried out by the unit responsible for last year's bombing at the Deal barracks, Kent, which killed 11 Royal Marine bandsmen; the unit is thought to be north London-based with a specific brief to hit "soft" military targets in the greater London area.

Mr Rifkind's contingency plans to meet the situation if the closure goes ahead, however, include the possibility of looking for an overseas buyer to keep the steel industry going in Scotland. If the closure plans proceed Mr Rifkind will consider asking the Scottish Development Agency office in Tokyo to help find a potential buyer.

Bogus officials

Two more cases of bogus health workers blurring their way into homes to examine children were reported last night. In Enfield, north London, two men posing as police officers stripped a baby boy in Swindon, a woman called at a house claiming she was conducting a survey into prematurely-born babies.

Patents down

The level of innovation, as judged by the number of new patent applications to the Patent Office, fell last year. Figures released yesterday in the annual report by the office showed the number of new or drawing board ideas from individuals or companies fell "slightly" to 29,369.

Courtauld coup

After 60 years, the Courtauld Institute and its collection of paintings are to be reunited in Somerset House in The Strand. On June 12, the Queen Mother will formally open the Fine Rooms in Somerset House's north block, once the home of the Royal Academy. Arts, page 19

Police under attack 'from every quarter'

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's police are facing an impending crisis, battered by media criticism, unsupported by ministers and hamstrung by financial cuts, Mr Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, told its annual conference yesterday.

Mr Eastwood and other senior federation officials roundly attacked the Government's record on the eve of what promises to be a stormy reception for the maiden speech by Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary. Before he arrives today, the conference at Scarborough, North Yorkshire, is expected to meet in closed session to discuss a motion from Manchester officers on whether there should be any sort of "appropriate reception" for the Home Secretary.

Speaker after speaker talked of the barrage of criticism police believe they have received unfairly at the hands of an antagonistic media and the growing inadequacies of a judicial system.

Mr Eastwood told a conference dedicated this year to the theme of policing in crisis: "I cannot recall a year like the last one. The service has been under attack from all sides. The media is after our blood."

Cases might be old, allegations were unproven and the police side unheard but "the space of accusations has been lumped together to suggest there is a deep-seated cancer of corruption", he said. If it were repeated enough times, it would be accepted.

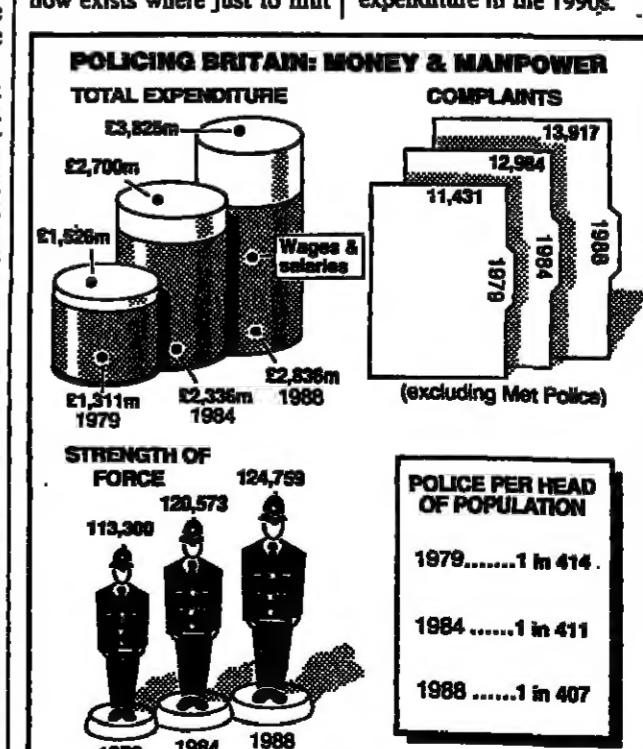
"Where, you may ask, is the counterblast of unqualified support from the people who know the truth and are in the best position to cast it back in the teeth of the accusers? Where is the forthright defence of the police service we are entitled to expect from government?"

All too often, official expressions of support for and confidence in the police "are bedded with qualifications and delivered in still, small voices", Mr Eastwood said. The 125,000-strong federation passed a vote of no confidence in the Police Complaints Authority last year. Nothing in the past year suggested that the federation should change its mind, he added.

Policemen had to wait months or years for decisions on complaints while the public were persuaded of an elaborate conspiracy to protect police and the authority itself contributed to that view. Spending had been pared, leaving forces short of manpower and equipment.

His deputy, Mr Richard Coyle, told the conference: "British people are quite prepared to pay the price for a fully manned and efficient police service. The fault lies with those who pretend they are doing something and are not. They go on about law and order and all they are about talking about is saving money. We have got to tackle this Government and make them come clean."

Mr Coyle also pointed to criticism of the police based on unproven allegations. Morale was affected by the attacks and also the climate which now exists where just to hint



Tasty greens steal the show

By RUTH GLEDHILL

OUTSHINING the roses and delphiniums in a small corner of the marquee at the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday, rows of cauliflowers and broccoli proved to be one of the strongest crowd-pullers.

The modest green leaves sprouting from plain garden tubs hid exotic vegetables: housewives by the dozen stopped to examine the ornamental pyramid of the Romanesco cauliflower and the delicate pale heads of the Purple Sicilian broccoli.

Mr Andrew Gray, cauliflower breeder at the Institute of Horticultural Research, has developed and improved Italian cauliflower for the British

market without changing their basic character. "The Romanesco is different from the ordinary white cauliflower. It is sweeter with a slightly nutty flavour," he said. "We are also improving spreading broccoli to make more uniform crops with larger spreads."

A housewife defeated some of the country's leading businesses and market gardeners to take one of the top prizes for her garden. Mrs Kate Chambers, of Norton-in-Hales, Shropshire, won a gold medal for her garden, "Green and Pleasant Land", which she first entered in a Women's Institute competition.

The garden, which takes its

title from the WI anthem, *Jerusalem*, was built around a Victorian folly by Bridgemere Garden World, of Nantwich, Cheshire, who transplanted the stock, including a 15-year-old oak, down the M1 in eight lorry loads.

Outdoor displays, page 14

CORRECTION

The Lindisfarne monk illustrated in our report on May 19 of the National Garden Festival at Gateshead is part of the Northumberland County and District Councils garden, not the Durham County Council garden as stated.

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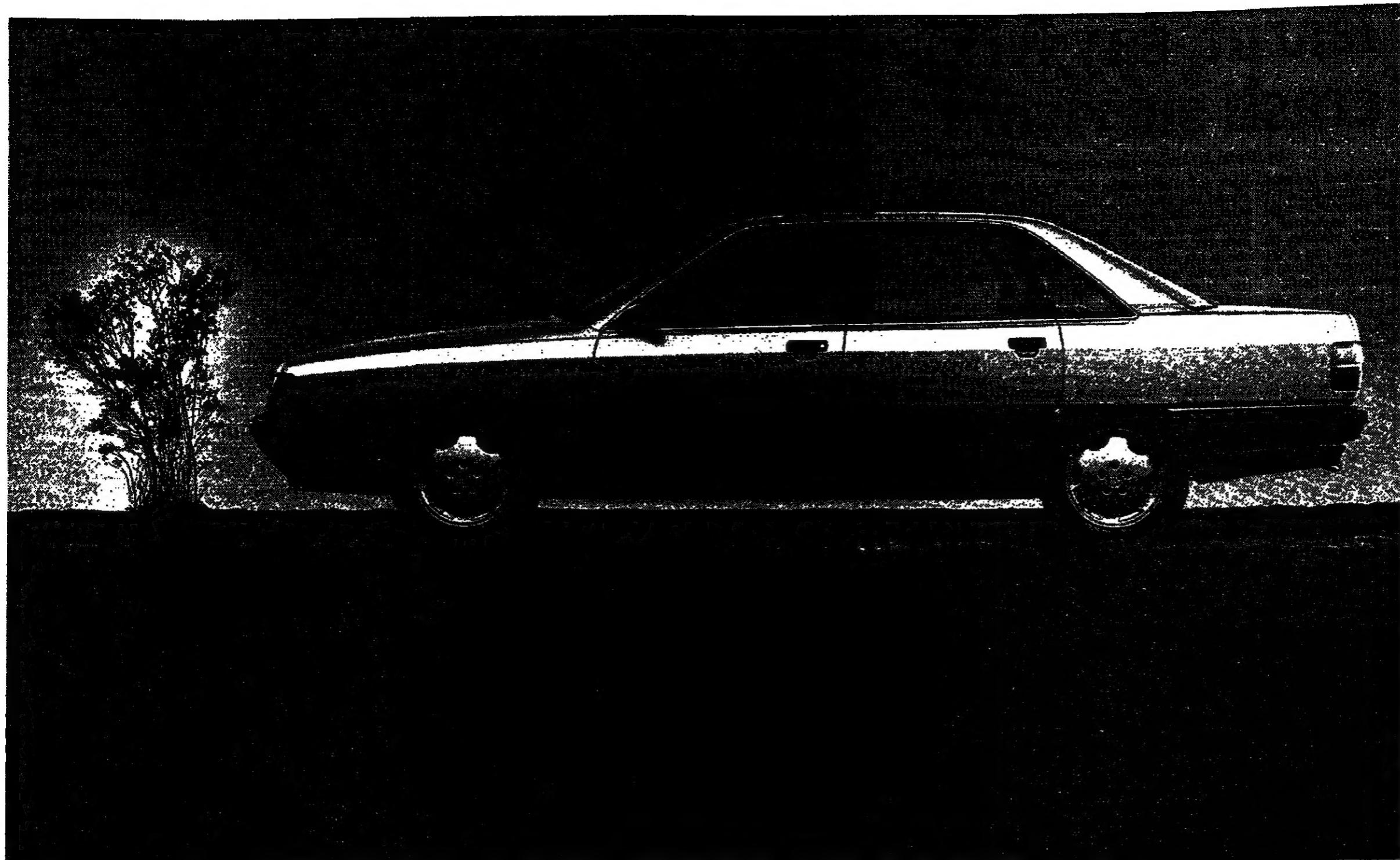
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A critical appraisal of the Audi 100 Turbo by a bog myrtle.



To a bog myrtle the fact that an Audi 100 Turbo can reach 60 mph in 7.5 seconds, or achieve 134 mph on a German autobahn, or is fitted with ABS as standard is largely irrelevant.

However, one aspect of the 100 Turbo that is of interest to the bog myrtle is the 3-way catalytic converter now fitted as standard in all Audi cars.

The converter removes up to 95% of toxic pollutants from the exhaust's gases. These include deadly carbon monoxide, unburnt hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen which contribute to photochemical smog and to the phenomenon we now call 'acid rain.'

The bog myrtle is a wonderfully fragrant shrubby plant. Originally, before hops became popular, it was used in the making of beer.

It flourishes in bogs, fens and wet heaths. Predominantly in Scotland, often around the edges of lakes.

Its existence is a finely balanced affair. A slight increase in the acidity levels in rain and it may disappear forever.

Not perhaps the most obvious reason for buying an Audi, but probably as good as any.

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VORSPRUNG DURCH TECHNIK.

Rover workers vote for 24-hour deal

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ROVER workers in a surprise move yesterday reversed their decision to throw out the first 24-hour working agreement in the British car industry by accepting the deal in a second ballot.

The 12,500 workers at Rover's biggest plant, at Longbridge, Birmingham, had voted by a majority of seven to five against the package, which will also create 1,200 jobs, in a ballot earlier this month.

That decision had shocked national union officials, who had recommended the deal as "the best hours package anywhere in the motor industry" and had led to a warning from Rover executives that they would impose the new system.

However, a second ballot produced a swift change of mind with 8,274 workers voting to accept and 4,229 continuing to reject the deal.

The decision paves the way for the most radical working agreement in the British car industry, giving Rover working practices prevailing in a few car factories in the world. Even many Japanese plants have not yet adopted a 24-hour working system, which entails three shifts operating round-the-clock to maximize the use of expensive automation.

The deal will enable Rover virtually to double production in key areas of its Longbridge works, and will present a target for other UK car makers. Companies such as Ford and Vauxhall may seek similar deals soon as they consider ways of increasing output to try to match not only Rover, but also formidable competition from new British factories owned by Nissan, Toyota and Honda, of Japan, which are investing a total of £1.5 billion in manufacturing.

Neither unions nor Rover executives were able to explain the reversal yesterday, although both sides were pleased with the outcome, which will guarantee significant increases in production for the company.

Rover said it would put the new system into operation after next week's holiday break for 4,000 workers on assembly lines for the new K-series engines, at the heart of the company's latest range of cars, and for the Rover 200 and 400 models.

The workers will swap from 20 shifts a month to 13 of 11.5 hours each, resulting in a surge of extra output. Production of Rover 200 hatchbacks and 400 saloons will rise from 3,500 to 5,000 a week to cope with demand, which has meant waiting lists of up to three months for some models.

Assembly of K-series engines, which are used in the two Rovers as well as the new Metro, will be doubled to 6,000 a week.

In return, workers are guaranteed seven consecutive rest days a month and a £20 shift premium, while the whole of the company's 30,000-strong manual workforce in Birmingham, Oxford and Swindon will get a reduction in the working week from 39 to 37 hours.

Rover said last night: "This is very good news indeed for Rover, which will become the first 24-hour car factory in the UK. We are now better placed to satisfy the enormous customer demand for our products."

• A compromise appears to have been reached in a dispute between British Airways engineers based at Heathrow airport's Terminal One and the airline over the introduction of 12-hour shifts. A ballot is being conducted among the engineers with the recommendation that they accept the new shifts for a trial period.

Scargill on strike alert over 7,500 pit job cuts

By CRAIG SETON

UP TO 7,500 jobs are likely to be lost through pit closures over the next three years, British Coal said yesterday. Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, immediately said that industrial action was the only way to stop the cuts.

Sir Robert Haslam, the British Coal chairman, told Mr Scargill of the rationalization programme at their first meeting for more than a year. Afterwards, Mr Scargill said: "British Coal are yet again embarking on a further closure programme and manpower reduction. There were no guarantees given for the future of this industry. It is my firm belief that the only way you can defend the pits, the industry and the jobs we have is by taking industrial action. I say that very reluctantly. I do not want to see a strike or industrial action."

Mr Scargill's reaction was in marked contrast to that of Mr Roy Lynd, the leader of the Nottinghamshire-based Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which was formed by miners who worked during the 1984 strike. Mr Lynd said the news was not half as bad as the doom-laden forecasts of the past few months and he did not expect job losses to amount to 7,000. He was confident that every Nottinghamshire pit would remain open for the "foreseeable future", in spite of predictions that Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire would bear the brunt of the closures.

Of the 7,500 predicted job losses, 1,300 had been foreseen by the announcement of three pit closures in south Yorkshire and south Wales. If a further 6,000 jobs went, it would represent just under 10 per cent of the remaining 64,000 miners in the industry, he said.

Sir Robert said the rationalization was being discussed in the wake of three-year contracts British Coal had signed with the power industry, under which demand would fall from 70 million tonnes to 65 million tonnes by 1992-93. Leaders from four mining unions were also told in separate talks with Sir Robert of the threat to the industry from the demand for "green" power stations using cleaner natural gas and imported low-sulphur coal.

Sir Robert said job losses could be horrendous unless foreign imports and the development of gas-powered power stations was stopped and new equipment was fitted at power stations to reduce emissions of sulphur dioxide which contributed to acid rain.

Mr Scargill, who said his national executive would consider a strategy to save the jobs, accused British Coal of the economics of the mad-

IAN CRAWFORD



Mr Arthur Scargill giving a warning of industrial action after being told of pit job cuts

By KERRY GILL

A FORBIDDING view of the country's continuing moral degradation was outlined yesterday by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland when he deplored the church's infidelity on daily life.

The Rev Alasdair Gollan, in his opening address in the assembly in Edinburgh, said people had reached a low ebb both spiritually and morally and called for a revival of principle.

He painted a bleak picture of sections of society, saying: "Our prisons are overcrowded and the forces of law and order are continually on the stretch. Iniquity walks unashamedly in our streets."

"Sexual deviants boldly advertise their way of life... the sins of the ancient world are now legalized in our land. There is the spreading of

unnatural crime - child abuse," he said.

Mr Gollan said Edinburgh had become one of the worst centres for drug addiction and blamed much of present ills on the devaluation of the sanctity of marriage.

"How sad it is to read in our newspapers of prominent men and women in the field of sport and the world of show business, unashamedly living together in sexual relationships without any thought of marriage, and their offspring are sentimentally referred to in the tabloid press as 'love children'."

Taking as his theme "A heart-cry for revival", Mr Gollan said there was an urgent need for a spiritual awakening that would transform the nation as well as the church. A revival of religion would restore a sense of

Auditions for Miss Saigon flop

MARC ASPLAND



Miss Marian de Jesus, aged 26, rehearsing backstage before her audition yesterday

By GERALDINE BEDELL

THE long-running modern musical demands a steady supply of performers who can sing, dance and act. *Miss Saigon*, which opened at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, demands all this - plus oriental looks. It is a combination that has proved difficult to find.

Miss Saigon's producers, Cameron Mackintosh, scoured the country for a cast. "We canvassed every part of the British Isles - put up posters in Chinese restaurants all over Soho, contacted the Buddhist community, and spoke to all the embassies," Mr Nick Allott, the executive producer, says. They still had to import 15 of the 18 cast members from abroad.

Yesterday, Cameron Mackintosh launched his search for a new *Miss Saigon* cast for September, with auditions at Drury Lane. But despite wide publicity for the auditions, only 40 hopefuls turned up.

At least half a dozen were not remotely oriental-looking and those who did look oriental seemed much longer on life-experience than theatrical experience. "I want to be in it, because it's about prostitutes in the Far East, and that's my background: I was a prostitute in Singapore for four years," said Miss Kim Poh. Another hopeful, Miss Nguyen Kim Phuong, wanted a part because she had been abandoned in a basket in a Saigon street when she was a baby.

Only a handful seemed quietly competent. Miss Marian de Jesus, aged 26, whose mother is Anglo-Burmese, and whose father is half-English, half-Brazilian, has been studying ballet, jazz and tap since she was three. She sings professionally in a salsa band. "I have no idea whether I'll be suitable. I don't know what they're looking for," she said.

It seems unlikely that Cameron Mackintosh will be able to assemble a cast from yesterday's auditions. There is one other source of potential performers in Britain. Cameron Mackintosh has set up coaching classes for Asian performers. Oriental-looking Britons have better things to do, it would seem. "Initially we had hoped that Vietnamese refugees would be interested," Mr Allott said. "But the embassies told us they hadn't come all this way to be penniless actors; they were all too busy being doctors and lawyers."

Satellite TV comes to Soviet Union

From RICHARD EVANS
MEDIA EDITOR
LUXEMBOURG

THE Soviet Union will soon be able to tune into satellite television and offer Western programmes to increasingly dissatisfied viewers. The first 1,000 satellite dishes, which are likely to receive programmes such as Sky News and MTV, will be installed within months and should be freely available inside five years, Mr Mikhail Nenashev, chairman of the State Committee of Radio and Television, said yesterday.

"With *perestrukha* and *glasnost*, our television used most of its time for political items. It is too much. We forget about culture, news and music. We want to make it more balanced. Now it is too much internal policy and viewers are complaining about that."

Mr Nenashev, who had earlier addressed the first Luxembourg media summit, told journalists that the Soviet Union was politically ready for satellite television. The only problems were technical. The 1,000 dishes being produced this year would be installed in embassies, tourist hotels, universities and scientific centres, he said. "There is a very big appetite for the news and what is going on in Western Europe - also movies, especially French, Italian and British, TV serials, music and youth programmes."

Luxembourg is the headquarters of SES, which launched the 16 channel Astra satellite used by Sky. Mr Nenashev, who visited the Betzdorf satellite centre on Monday, said Soviet television may rent a transponder on a second Astra satellite to be launched by the end of this year.

The satellite development is just one stage in a significant expansion of Soviet television outlined by Mr Nenashev, which includes five national channels instead of the existing two. Soviet television was also "very interested" in co-production ventures for historical series, programmes on museums, art galleries and cultural centres - including the Kremlin.

Media, pages 16, 17

'Two-year delay' on Sizewell

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SIZEWELL B, the nuclear power plant being built on the Suffolk coast, will not come into service until 1996, two years late, the environmental group Friends of the Earth said yesterday.

The group says that analysis of government figures on how much nuclear-generated electricity the privatized area boards will have to buy in the next eight years reveals the extent of the Sizewell B delay. It also says a nuclear industry report shows that construction costs for the plant have risen to more than £2 billion.

Friends of the Earth says the delays and rising costs and further delays make a mockery of the Government's position that nuclear stations must be delivered on time and on cost. It calls for the abandonment of the project.

The Department of Energy said Friends of the Earth's interpretation of the figures was inaccurate. "The non-fossil fuel obligation was set to account for Sizewell coming on stream in 1996. That doesn't mean it won't come on stream earlier than that date."

"As for the costs rising to £2 billion, that is pure speculation. We have received a review from Nuclear Electric, but these may not be the final figures. We are still looking at the review."

THESE YOU HAVE LOVED



A chronicle of past passions for

Communist and undemocratic left wing regimes by Labour MPs, trade union leaders and others.

by Harry Phipps

This pamphlet is free to readers.

Write to: Aims of Industry
40 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2CF. 071-405 5195

AIMS OF INDUSTRY

Forensic tests at Maguire trial were suspect, inquiry told

By RAY CLANCY

FORENSIC tests that led to the conviction and imprisonment of Mrs Annie Maguire and six others 14 years ago for running an IRA bomb factory could have been "deliberately contaminated", the inquiry into their cases was told yesterday.

Doubts about swabs taken from Mrs Maguire, her husband Patrick, two of her sons and others were raised by Mr Anthony Arridge, QC, on the second day of the inquiry headed by Sir John May, the former court of appeal judge.

Mr Arridge, who represents six of the

seven involved in the case, claimed the Crown case had been flawed and outlined 10 points that, he said, if true, made "the methodology of the trial, the prosecution argument, the judge's summing up and the court of appeal decision fall".

He said it was clear from studies of IRA safe houses and IRA movements that the Maguire family home in Kilburn, north London, could not have been a bomb factory, and that no ancillary bomb-making equipment had ever been found. No one had ever been seen "transporting anything from the house", and that if the defendants had

been manipulating explosives traces would have been left behind either in the house or on their clothes.

At the original trial, the convictions of Mr and Mrs Maguire, their sons Vincent and Patrick, Mrs Maguire's brother Sean Smith, Mr Giuseppe Conlon, her husband's brother-in-law, and Mr Patrick O'Neill, a family friend, the case relied heavily on scientific evidence that traces of nitroglycerine had been found on their clothes.

However, yesterday Mr Arridge disputed that evidence and added that if the family had "feared a visit from the police" they would not have left evi-

dence such as suspect gloves lying about. Mr Arridge said there were three possibilities as to why the swabs had shown traces of explosives. The explosives could have entered the house on the hands of someone else, they could have been "innocently contaminated at some stage in the course of the scientific testing", or "someone deliberately contaminated the swabs after they were taken from the defendants".

Mr Arridge also suggested that some evidence crucial to the defence case had not been made available in court during the trial. "If proper disclosure was not made, that makes the convictions dou-

bly unsatisfactory ... There were a number of matters that, if they had been disclosed, would have led to the defence demanding further inquiry. If that had been pursued, the result might have been different."

Those matters, he said, related to photographs and scientific reports. He added: "In a variety of subtle ways the trial process was distorted."

The first witness, Det Sergeant Lawrence Vickery, who was attached to the bomb squad team that raided the Maguire's house on December 3 1974, said at that time bomb squad officers were not supplied with protective cloth-

ing or specific instructions on the possibility of cross-contamination, although since then new procedures had been brought in.

It emerged that he had attended the scene of a bomb explosion at the Talbot Arms pub in Chelsea on November 30, 1974, just 48 hours before he entered the Maguire house.

A statement released by the Conlon family through Mr Anthony Scrivenor, QC, who represents Mrs Sarah Conlon, the widow of Mr Conlon, who died from tuberculosis in prison, said his dying plea had been for his name to be cleared. The inquiry continues today.

Jail officers seek gas and grenades to quell cell riots

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A CALL for prison officers to be issued with CS gas and stun grenades to quell jail riots was made yesterday as the officers' union claimed that staff shortages had left some prisons in a state of "unsupervised anarchy".

Debating the penal system's renewed trouble, delegates at the Prison Officers' Association's annual conference at Portsmouth laid the blame for last month's jail disturbances at the Home Office's door.

The department's biggest "failure", delegates said, had been to reduce staff in a relentless search for efficiency savings. It had also failed to maintain sufficient stocks of riot gear. As a result, much equipment had to be borrowed from police, while many officers had had to share shields and helmets.

Mr John Bartell, the union's chairman, won thunderous

applause when he called on the Prison Department's senior managers to do "the honourable thing and resign". Another delegate described Mr Christopher Train, the Prison Service's director-general, as an "invisible man". Prison administrators had become "disciples of Saatchi and Saatchi".

While several delegates denounced the poor conditions prevailing in many jails, the overwhelming mood was of the need for discipline to be restored in the system following one of the worst waves of jail disturbances this century.

Mr Brian Caton, branch secretary of Wakefield prison, West Yorkshire, was clapped when he called for officers to be given CS gas and "stun devices". He said: "Wakefield is not against reform and liberalization. But in recognizing the need for re-

form in the Prison Service let us not forget the need for control."

Delegates claimed equipment shortages had jeopardized the safety of staff and prisoners. At Manchester, all supplies had been provided by police, while at another prison affected by riot no one had been able to find the key to the store cupboard.

Mr Peter Hall, branch chairman at Pucklechurch Remand Centre, near Bristol, Avon, where several hundred young offenders ran amok, claimed manpower shortages were a big problem. Because of it, cell searches had been "virtually non-existent" for nine months before the riot and cannabis smoking by inmates was widespread.

Mr Bartell, whose speech received a standing ovation, claimed Home Office "propaganda" had obscured the fact that overtime cuts brought about by the Fresh Start agreement meant that prisons had lost 306,000 staff man hours each week. That equated to 7,650 officers.

Accusing the department of putting money before "life and limb", he said: "The cost of dangerously low-staffing levels lies smouldering in the ruins of many parts of the prison system. Nearly 3,000 prisoners are now dispersed into other prisons, which are already jam-packed, dangerously under-staffed, and potentially powder kegs."

Aluding to the union's plans to ballot its members on industrial action over the manning issue, he added: "There should be no misunderstanding. We will not stand idly by and watch the mistakes of the past being repeated. We will not be the willing participants in a plot where we are the cannon fodder for other people's mistakes."

Mr Terry McLaren, prison officer at Wandsworth, in south London, said "woolly-headed" officials "could not organize a panic on the Titanic".

As the delegates denounced the Home Office, they heard that prisoners in D wing at Frankland Prison near Durham had rioted early yesterday, smashing furniture through cell windows and setting it alight.

Mr John Carrigan, the association's branch secretary at Frankland, said: "Prisoners were throwing cell furniture out of windows into the exercise yard and trying to set it alight."

The Home Office played down the disturbance and described the situation at Frankland as "calm".

Mr Seale, branch chairman of the Prison Officers' Association at Strangeways, and Mr Peter Hancock, branch secretary, paid scant respect to the language of penal reform when referring to the rioters who took control of the jail for 25 days.

Mr Hancock, who told the conference how prisoners trying to flee the disorder were pelted with stones and coping stones, said the rioters had been worse than animals. "Animals would not have done to their own what they did."

Describing the intimidation and beatings meted out by rioters to sex offenders held in the jail's segregation unit, he said: "We are talking about part castrations, a ligature being taped around the neck of an injured man and of unconscious prisoners bleeding from all orifices."

Mr Seale said prison officers had faced inmates intent on "brutalizing" staff and innocent prisoners alike. Police have launched a murder inquiry after the death of one inmate during the riot.

As he began to speak Mr Seale theatrically produced a puppet dressed up like a prison officer. It had been the staff's mascot during the riot, which left the jail a virtual ruin. He said the staff, appalled by the Home Office's alleged mismanagement of the prison system, had tended to drop the puppet's trousers every time an administrator's name was mentioned.

Mr Seale praised the police and other emergency services for the help they had offered staff during the riot and said Mr Brendan O'Friel, Strangeways' governor, had been brilliant. "Had it not been for him, ministers would have closed Strangeways," he said. Prison officers had displayed "remarkable bravery and loyalty".

He interrupted his plaudits by voicing disbelief over the

"powder keg" warning: Mr Bartell at the conference

MIKE WALKER

"Powder keg" warning: Mr Bartell at the conference

THE posters festooning Bootle by-election

Labour loyalty goes unquestioned

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, BOOTLE

engineering factory in the constituency, the first-time voter explained without hesitation that she would be supporting Labour in tomorrow's by-election.

Asked why, Miss Isherwood replied: "Because we are a Labour family. I don't know much about it but it's in the family. We always vote Labour."

She no doubt was one of those whom Mr Jack Holmes, the Social Democrat candidate, had in mind when he commented yesterday: "It is a sad thing to see the hopeless loyalty the people have for the

leadership is determined that, however safe the

Labour Party. The most glaring omission in the Labour Party campaign is that there is no record whatever of their achievements in Bootle.

Wisely, given that the neighbouring constituency, and a much smarter one, is Crosby, scene of one of the SDP's brief but ephemeral successes, Mr Holmes did not ponder long on the question of loyalty. In spite of the 24,477 majority bequeathed by the late MP, Mr Alan Roberts, the party headquarters is taking no chances.

The leadership is determined that, however safe the

Labour cannot take past loyalties for granted. In 1987 Labour won 66.9 per cent of the poll; the party aims to maintain that and hopes the Tory candidate, a Yorkshire barrister fighting his third solid Labour parliamentary seat, may lose his deposit.

The candidates: M Carr (Lab); J Clappison (Con); J Cunningham (Lib Dem); K White (Lib); S Brady (Green); J Holmes (SDP); T Schofield (Ind); Lord D Sutcliffe (Monster Raving Loony Caver Rock Party).

General election: Alan Roberts (Lab) 34,975; P Papworth (Con) 10,498; P Denham (SDP/All) 6,820. Lab maj: 24,677.

A LABOUR council's decision to ban advertisements in *The Times Educational Supplement* and other publications owned by News International was attacked as illegal and perverse in the High Court yesterday, and one which could adversely affect the educational welfare of schoolchildren in Derbyshire.

Derbyshire County Council allegedly imposed the ban after reports in *The Sunday Times* last September that the TES was the main channel for advertising school job vacancies and the council's decision would seriously

hinder its ability to recruit competent teachers.

The Times Supplements Ltd, News International, Times Newspapers and Mrs Pauline Latham, a Derbyshire county councillor, are seeking a declaration that the decision was unlawful, and an injunction to restrain the council from acting on it.

The council denies acting improperly, claiming the education committee decided to advertise teaching vacancies in *The Guardian* only after careful consideration and that it was not influenced by *The Sunday Times* reports.

Maxwell case

A action brought by Mr Robert Maxwell alleging that he was defamed by the BBC and Mr Arnold Kemp, editor of the *Glasgow Herald*, has been settled out of court, it was disclosed yesterday. News of the settlement came minutes before evidence was to be heard at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

Lake spoiled

VANDALS have dumped 200 gallons of oil into a popular Kent lake used by water-skiers and swimmers. So far, six dogs are ill as a result. Police are warning locals and bathers to stay away from the lake near Creek Road, Cliff Village, near Rochester, until the hydraulic oil is removed.



Mr William Davis, the British Tourist Authority chairman, with a wax model of a wilting tourist at Madame Tussaud's yesterday to mark the London museum's fourth year as the most popular tourist attraction charging admission

Women 'hit worst' by health cuts

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN have been the main victims of health service cuts in London over the past 10 years, as users, carers and workers, according to a survey published today by the London Health Emergency Group.

The report says there has been a significant erosion in family planning, gynaecology and abortion services and inadequate progress on screening services for cervical and breast cancer, and points to the closure of local maternity hospitals.

Hospitals for women only, such as the South London Women's Hospital have closed, and the famous Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, which used to be staffed by women for women, now employs male doctors.

Between 1980 and 1987, 450 maternity beds closed, 16 per cent of all provision. Since then, smaller units such as the Perivale Hospital in Ealing and Victoria Maternity Hospital in Barnet have also closed down. Although they are to be replaced by centralized units, there is an overall loss of beds and reduced accessibility. In addition, many districts have introduced tougher geographical restrictions on maternity admissions, limiting the choice of birthplace.

The London Health Emergency Group warns that the position is likely to get worse under the health service reforms: women might have to travel further for treatment and have less choice because provision will be dictated by contracts drawn up by health authorities. In addition, the estimated six million carers in Britain, mainly women, will gain little from the Community Care reforms, the group says.

Female staff in the health service have also been more vulnerable to cuts and cost efficiency measures. Competitive tendering of ancillary services, which the report says results in job losses and lower pay, has affected women staff more than men. The district-by-district survey shows heavy cuts in family planning services in many districts, including the inner and outer London health districts of Ealing, Hounslow, Kingston and Esher, Barking, Havering and Brentwood, Redbridge, Bromley and West Lambeth.

In some authorities, family planning and "well women" services are now generally provided by the GP rather than in health service clinics. In Richmond, Twickenham and Roehampton, west London, those services have been merged with family planning services and reduced from 30 weekly sessions to 18 since 1988. A package of cuts recently agreed by Wandsworth health authority, south London, will include reductions in post-natal maternity beds and cutbacks in routine family planning services.

In the City and Hackney, East London, women requiring an abortion after 12 weeks who do not have "significant medical grounds" are being advised to go direct to a private advisory service. The report claims that, although the district is supposed to provide abortions up to 12 weeks in reality the service is too overloaded.

Gynaecology services were cut in Waltham Forest by 25 per cent in 1988 and could be cut again by as much as another 30 per cent, although

Sunday trading

A renewed battle over a DIY company's Sunday trading started yesterday when magistrates at Cwmbran, Gwent, began hearing a test case against the B&Q chain referred back to them by the European Court last year. Tafford Borough Council first brought the prosecution against B&Q two years ago.

Doyle honoured

Sixty years after his death, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is to be honoured with a statue of his famous creation, Sherlock Holmes, erected in the centre of Edinburgh. It will be placed in Picardy Place near the site where Sir Arthur was born in 1859 and will depict the detective dressed in his Inverness cape and deerstalker.

Bootle by-election

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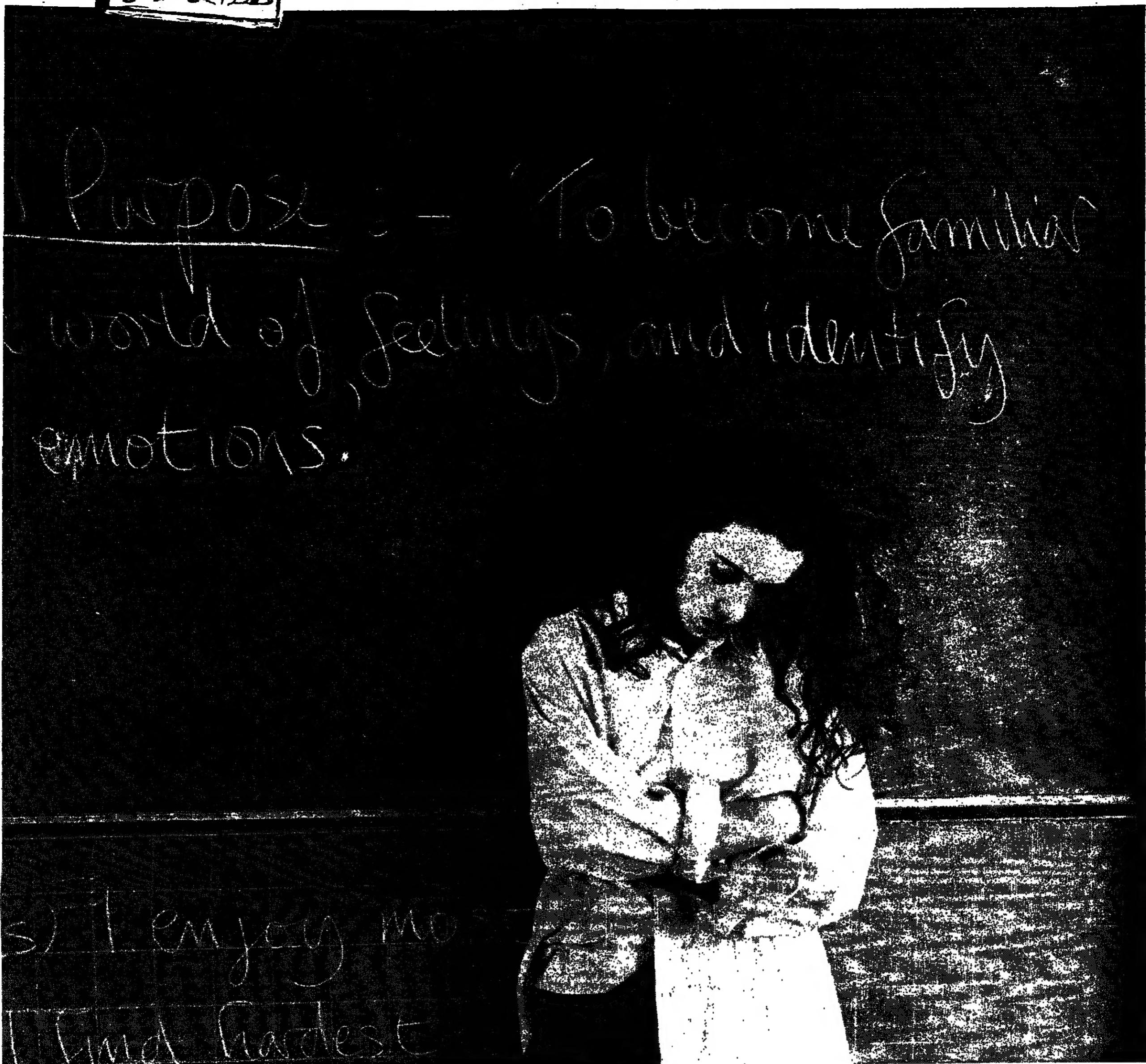
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Dept B/21.5



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There can be all sorts of reasons, and the same problems may manifest themselves in a variety of ways. While one child may be withdrawn, another will be persistently cheeky, rude or even aggressive, seeking the attention in the classroom that they don't get anywhere else.

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staff at the school whose responsibility it is to talk to the child, visit the parents or even have a word with specialist services, if that is required. But there is always a great deal you can do yourself as a teacher. Just by taking a personal interest in the child, you'll be surprised at how quickly her behaviour may begin to change. (After all, you may be the first person who has.)

And when she does start to show an interest in work, the more praise and encouragement you can give her, the better.

Of course, this is an over-simplification. But the point is, teaching is not just about getting children through exams. It's about helping them make the most of themselves in the widest sense. And that is why so many people find the profession offers them rewards they can find in no other job.

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Secondary school teaching for secondary teaching please indicate subject.....



Teaching brings out the best in people.

50-year record low for strikes

The number of industrial stoppages last year was the lowest for more than 50 years, Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, said in the Commons.

There were 12.9 million working days lost per year in the period 1970 to 1979 and 7.2 million from 1980 to 1989. It was provisionally estimated that 5.1 million days were lost in the 12 months ended last March.

Mr Phillip Oppenheim (Amber Valley, C) said that a return to the unbridled secondary picketing that would be possible under Labour's proposals would destroy that progress.

Mr Howard said nothing would be more guaranteed to deal a death blow to the economic prospects of the country than Opposition proposals to make striking easier.

Aid pledge for bank

The Government will be working closely with the president-designate of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development so that it can begin work as soon as possible on helping in the restructuring of the economies of Eastern European countries, Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in a written reply.

Parliament's new members

Mr David Trimble, who retained Upper Bann for the Ulster Unionist Party in last week's by-election, took his seat in the Commons.

Lord Wade of Charlton, formerly Sir Cuthbert Wade, a joint treasurer of the Conservative Party, was introduced in the Lords.

MPs' £5.9m for travel

Expenses incurred by MPs in travel between their homes and Westminster and their constituencies amounted to £5,913,667 during the last financial year. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said in a Commons written reply.

House TV

Commons officials are looking into the options for providing a satellite television service for MPs. Mr Christopher Chope, Under Secretary of State, Environment, said in a written reply.

Fur exports

Total value of all furs exported from the United Kingdom last year was £132 million. Mr John Redwood, Under Secretary of State for Corporate Affairs, said in a Commons written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment. Spring recess debates on a variety of subjects.

Lords (2.30): Debates on civil liberties and on population growth.

Tories plead for people in difficulty on poll tax

A NUMBER of Conservative MPs made clear their reservations about the community charge when MPs debated the issue yesterday.

They spoke of unfairness and called on the Government to help those finding it difficult to make ends meet.

Mr Mathew Taylor, Liberal Democrat spokesman on the environment, who opened the debate, said that the poll tax was transferring money from the already poor to the already rich.

He pressed his party's case for a local income tax.

Mr Michael Portillo, Minister for Local Government, in his first Commons speech since taking over responsibility for the community charge, said that as the new system settled down the basic principle, that nearly every adult should contribute to the cost of local services, was widely accepted.

Mr Taylor, opening the debate, moved that the Government should take immediate action to bring help to hard pressed poll tax payers this year and backdate it to the introduction of the poll tax in Scotland. The motion also stated that the Government should change the tax so that it related directly to ability to pay.

He said that it was apparent only two months after the introduction of the poll tax in England and Wales that it was unaccountable, unfair and inefficient. The report in *The Times* last week, that in some areas half of those liable had not yet paid any poll tax, showed the problems facing the Government in upholding its argument that the system was correct.

The most remarkable thing about it was that those who gained cause were embarrassed because they were already among the better off.

Most Conservative MPs took the view that some kind of change needed to be introduced.

The Government could increase some government grant to local authorities. However, an extra £1 billion would save each adult only £23 and would miss those most in need of help. It was hard to believe that the Government would go down that road.

Another option was to transfer control of police, education and fire services from local authorities. But that would have a knock-on effect on income tax nationally and would mean the centralisation of services that most people believed should remain under local control.

The Government could improve the transitional relief scheme which was limited in application. An extension of that relief now, and retrospectively in Scotland, would target money better than increased grants.

But all of that tinkered with the margins and did not tackle the fundamental problem.

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton, C) said that there was a possibility of moving away from the present system to banding from next year. One could have more than three bands to remove the discontinuity in the system.

Mr Taylor said that the problem would still remain. The

final option was capping most or all authorities. But that would be a disaster for local services and a grotesque centralisation of power.

The local income tax proposed by his party would be collected through PAYE at the end of the year on the basis of the tax paid and the area in which the taxpayer lived.

It was alleged that the administrative costs would be unduly high, but existing Inland Revenue information could be used, thus saving £750 million in bureaucracy and getting rid of many bureaucrats in the process. The expansion of the Inland Revenue would be small because the structure was already there.

Contrary to what was alleged, there was no new complex system to be introduced. It was said that it would be difficult to enforce, but that would not be so when compared with the poll tax.

Mr Portillo said that rates were grossly unfair. That unfairness derived mainly from the fact that property values were no proxy for wealth or income and that any system based on property would repeat the injustice of the rates.

Mr John Lee (Pendle, C) said that people like him were particularly unhappy at the gap between the new community charge figures and the low historic costs of the rates.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Over, Lab) said that if Derbyshire county council's standard spending assessment had been calculated on the same basis as Westminster's, the county council would not have levied a poll tax at all. It would be handing back money. The calculations had been made because they were embarrassed because they were already among the better off.

Most Conservative MPs took the view that some kind of change needed to be introduced.

The Government could increase some government grant to local authorities. However, an extra £1 billion would save each adult only £23 and would miss those most in need of help. It was hard to believe that the Government would go down that road.

Another option was to transfer control of police, education and fire services from local authorities. But that would have a knock-on effect on income tax nationally and would mean the centralisation of services that most people believed should remain under local control.

The Government could improve the transitional relief scheme which was limited in application. An extension of that relief now, and retrospectively in Scotland, would target money better than increased grants.

But all of that tinkered with the margins and did not tackle the fundamental problem.

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton, C) said that there was a possibility of moving away from the present system to banding from next year. One could have more than three bands to remove the discontinuity in the system.

The policy of not paying the charge was espoused by 28 Labour MPs. "How legislators in a democracy can advocate breaking the law is beyond my comprehension."

Part of the opposition arose from the fears of Labour MPs that the Associated British Ports

Attack on union 'bully boys'

THE fact that in the very week that Arthur Scargill called for industrial action once more, the Labour Party would be putting forward a proposal to make it easier for him to bring his bully boys back on the streets was without significance, Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, said in the Commons.

There were 12.9 million working days lost per year in the period 1970 to 1979 and 7.2 million from 1980 to 1989. It was provisionally estimated that 5.1 million days were lost in the 12 months ended last March.

Mr Phillip Oppenheim (Amber Valley, C) said that a return to the unbridled secondary picketing that would be possible under Labour's proposals would destroy that progress.

Mr Howard said nothing would be more guaranteed to deal a death blow to the economic prospects of the country than Opposition proposals to make striking easier.

Mr Howard said that the local income tax proposed by his party would be collected through PAYE at the end of the year on the basis of the tax paid and the area in which the taxpayer lived.

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Economic sanctions against S Africa 'almost irrelevant'

PRIME MINISTER

By MR THERESA THATCHER

go, through negotiations, to democratic government on a non-racial basis.

"I believe that he deserves to be fully supported for the courageous reforms he is making.

There is no case now for sanctions and they are almost irrelevant.

Those who want South Africa to have a prosperous economy should not support sanctions in any way.

• The Government is spending an estimated 5p per British citizen on advertising in South African newspapers to tell British citizens there that they now have a right to vote in British elections.

The cost per eligible citizen of telling them of their voting rights ranges from 2p in the Ivory Coast through a few pence in the "old Commonwealth" countries to £16.41p in Japan, according to a table in a written

reply by Mr Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary, Home Office.

Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Lib Dem) had asked for an estimate of the cost of advertising the rights of voters under the Representation of the People Act, 1983, in each country.

He also asked for a breakdown of the cost in South Africa and apportionment of spending there by race.

Mr Lloyd replied that in South Africa, advertisements were being placed in newspapers at a cost of £7,676. In addition, £2,250 had been allocated to diplomatic posts in South Africa for local publicity or advertising. There was no advertising on radio or television. Spending had not been apportioned on the basis of ethnic grouping. A table gave estimated expenditure per eligible British citizen for about 140 countries, among the highest individual costs being £12.50p for El Salvador and £8.81p for Algeria.

Mr Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary, Home Office.

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RIME MINISTER

the lowest tax rates in the world. The Labour Government had gone up, but the Labour Government did not have the courage to increase it honestly, but the Government of 9 per cent domestic production, which would now be equal to \$4.4 billion. James Elaine (Labour) (Brentwood, C) said that the Government would not increase on people with incomes such as local government officers and nurses. With increased tax rates, would "skin the cat".

Mrs Thatcher said that people on medium incomes, such as teachers, nurses, police officers, would be directly affected by increases. She added that the Conservative Party would never increase so that it could implement increases.

**Bill would
fight drug
at school**

THE drugs menace began in classrooms and then spread to begin in the night. Mr Raymond Powell (Lab) said when given leave to introduce the Drug, (Schools) Bill in the House under the Environment Bill.

The Bill, which has clauses on banning the sale of alcohol, the minimum age of 16 for buying drugs, it was 14 years ago, and introduced by Mr Powell, has been introduced by Mr Bell. In the meantime, the police have been investigating the Bill.

Major Johann Fouché, the police regional liaison officer, denies his men incited the clashes and says they acted with restraint. "When crowds

**Ranchers fight
the wolf's return**

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

MORE than half a century after the last grey wolf was killed in Yellowstone National Park, a great debate is to begin in Congress on whether to reintroduce the predator, now an endangered species.

Senator James McClure of Idaho tabled a Bill in the Senate yesterday to pave the way for the animal's reintroduction. A similar Bill has already been introduced in the House of Representatives.

"The wolf is a symbol of the American wilderness and represents all we have lost in

**Mining ban
sought for
Antarctic**

Oslo — Controversial proposals to scrap more than six years of Antarctic treaty negotiations in favour of absolute protection for the region are to be made public for the first time today at a symposium here (Tony Samstag writes).

The proposals, drafted last August by French and Australian diplomats, include a total ban on mining.

**Priest rebels
at 'gang' funeral**

Rome — Father Franco Rapullino refused Holy Communion to those attending a funeral in Naples on Monday of Nunzio Pandolfi, a two-year-old child killed in a Camorra shoot-out, because he said, they themselves were responsible for the child's death (Paul Bompard writes).

**Crew 'laughed
at stroke plea'**

Oslo — Mr Hakon Rund, aged 62, an eminent Norwegian architect, who suffered a stroke on a British Airways flight, claims his written plea for help was laughed off by cabin crew who assumed he was drunk, and he had to "half crawl" to a connecting flight (A Correspondent writes). The airline is taking the complaint seriously and is investigating the incident.

Mr Rund lost the use of his voice and was paralysed in his right hand 30 minutes into a 13-hour flight last week from Botswana to Gatwick. He scribbled a note asking for help.

Vigilantes on patrol after black violence

From GAVIN BELL IN THABONG

THE embers of revolt are still smouldering in a riot-torn black township in the heart of South Africa's goldfields, but the immediate threat of a race war appears to have been averted.

The residents of Thabong in the Orange Free State resumed a semblance of normal life yesterday after a weekend of violence in which eight people were killed and about 40 wounded by police gunfire. General lawlessness claimed another victim on Monday, when a former black councillor of the township was stabbed to death and set alight by an angry mob.

The aftermath resembled Belfast after a bad night. Virtually every street was littered with burnt-out cars and barricades thrown up to impede police intervention. Smoke was still drifting from several stores which had been firebombed and looted.

The Holokot Beer Garden was evidently a prime target. Its facade wrecked, its iron grilles saved some of the stock from looters, but what the mob was unable to steal they smashed and burnt.

A few stones were thrown at armoured police vehicles which took journalists to the scene, but it was more a desultory gesture than orchestrated defiance.

Residents blame the police for the violence, by breaking up a procession of mineworkers and youths from the township on Sunday. Mr Eric Dalwong, aged 30, said: "When the people see the police they are getting angry. If the police don't come, there is no trouble." His neighbour, Moses, perceives a deeper cause: "I don't think it's right to throw stones and I'm glad it's finished, but I still have no job and I can't feed my family. That's the big problem. How can you live a normal life without food and money?"

Major Johann Fouché, the police regional liaison officer, denies his men incited the clashes and says they acted with restraint. "When crowds

**Ranchers fight
the wolf's return**

200 years of exploitation of nature," Mr Rupert Cutler, president of Defenders of Wildlife, said.

Lined up in opposition, however, are congressmen and senators from Montana and Wyoming whose constituents include farmers and hunters who believe the wolves would kill off other wild animals and savage cattle and sheep on nearby ranches. "It may seem immaterial to someone who lives in New York, but if it is your livestock it is important," Mr Jerry Jack, executive vice-president of the Montana Stock Growers' Association, insisted.

On Monday the National Park Service published a 386-page report by independent scientists that appears to tip the balance heavily in favour of restoring wolf packs to the park. The report concludes that the impact would be very small, and suggests that at least 30 wolves should be released to yield an eventual stable population of between 50 and 120, or five to six packs.

There would be only "occasional" raids on livestock, the report claims, and Yellowstone's elk population might diminish by 15 to 25 per cent. Bison might decline by 5 to 15 per cent, and mule deer by up to 30 per cent.

Wolves once ranged freely in North America, but were killed in their thousands by European settlers wanting to protect both their livestock and other wild animals which they hunted for food.

The systematic government-sponsored elimination of wolves in Yellowstone, through shooting and poisoning, was begun in the 1920s and completed in the mid-1930s. By the 1950s there were very few left anywhere in the continental United States.

Public attitudes have since changed, and the grey wolf is now considered ecologically beneficial. To Miss Caroline Pasenau, executive director of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, however, a "howling wolf" is nevertheless "a howl of death for a rancher".

Miss Renée Atkins, a wildlife biologist, takes a more romantic view. "Some day a wee child will be bundled up and taken out on a cold, moonlit Yellowstone morning to hear wolves howling," she said. "There is still a little room left in the West for wilderness."



South African playground: Children playing round a burnt-out car in the black township of Thabong, where eight people died in weekend riots

Pretoria may tighten gun laws to curb hardliners

Johannesburg

A TOUGHENING of South Africa's liberal gun laws, which at present allow people to buy almost any type of firearm, is being considered by the Government to curb the brazen display of weaponry by white vigilante groups such as in Welkom (Ray Kennedy writes).

Minister of Law and Order, said in parliament in Cape Town yesterday that open intimidation by people who continued to attend meetings with all sorts of dangerous weapons had

reached a stage where it could not be allowed to continue. He declared that if people were not prepared to listen to reason they would have to deal with the full force of the law. But Mr Vlok's statement fell far short of indicating any really positive steps to reduce or

control the number of firearms in private hands. South Africa is one of the most armed societies in the world. Last year 130,835 applications for firearm licences were received by the police and 124,415 were issued — an average of nearly 34 a day.

Deng is back in spotlight

From CATHERINE SAMPSON

IN PEKING

CHINA'S eldest statesman, Mr Deng Xiaoping, aged 85, emerged from seclusion for the second time in just over a week, apparently reclaiming his mantle as supreme leader. His latest appearance comes after a period in which analysts have speculated that other veteran revolutionaries have been challenging his rule.

This time Mr Deng stepped into the spotlight to meet Herr Helmut Schmidt, the former West German Chancellor, and to restate China's uncompromising line on Taiwan in the wake of the Taiwan President's latest proposals on improved relations.

President Lee Teng-hui offered at the weekend to establish open economic, trade and cultural exchanges if China set up a free economy and followed the example of the Soviet Union by renouncing one-party rule. China condemned the suggestions next day through its official mouthpiece, the Xinhua news agency, which angrily described Mr Lee's pre-conditions as "impossible".

For his part, and in his first public utterances on politics in several months, Mr Deng blamed the US for sabotaging reunification with Taiwan, citing continued US involvement in the island republic.



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Romania's Hungarians lay claim to their past glories

From RICHARD BASSETT
IN ALBA IULIA, ROMANIA

WHEN exiled King Michael of Romania was a boy, King Carol insisted that the heir to the throne take lessons each day with a Hungarian and German boy from Transylvania. Whoever ruled Romania in the 20th century, the King said, would be well advised to learn to converse fluently in the language of the two minorities which, together with Romanians, inhabit the northern areas of Transylvania and the Banat.

Today the Germans, often called "Saxons", are leaving Romania. Summoned by King Ceausescu, they have left their Teutonic mark on every church spire, walled town and cobbled square throughout the region.

The last of Germany's colonists in Eastern Europe, they can hardly be blamed, after enduring decades of repression, for leaving their homeland and preferring the security of the Deutschmark. The elections this week

have only confirmed their deep-rooted suspicions that, as one Saxon farmer here said, "40 years of corruption cannot be removed even in a generation".

The pastor of the fairytale-like village of Schass remarked: "You can restore a building, but a man is less easy." By the end of the decade, very few of the 200,000 Saxons expect to be still here. To Romania's disgrace, this intelligent, honest and hard-working people will be lost to a country which needs precisely those qualities.

But if Mr Ion Iliescu, Romania's President-elect need not brush up his German, he would be foolish not to learn a few words of Hungarian. Preliminary election results here show that the Hungarians will be the second strongest political force in the country.

They will occupy as many as 27 seats in the Romanian Parliament which will once again offer scope to that Magyar parliamentary rhetoric which in the 1840s won Britain in spirit, if not in deed, over to the Hungarian cause.

A handful of seats in what seems to be a rubberstamp Parliament, dominated

by the National Salvation Front, will not satisfy the Hungarians. Unlike the Saxons, they have nowhere to go. Hungary today could not accommodate two million Hungarian refugees, even if such an inhumane solution were feasible.

Even without the Transylvanian Magyars, Hungary appears set to have a *Lebensraum* problem towards the end of the decade.

Nor would the Hungarians willingly relinquish what has always been for them the cradle of their culture. Where the Saxons built and fought, the Hungarians commanded and wrote. In Alba Iulia, the ancient Apulum of the Romans known in Hungarian as Gyulafehervar, the Hungarian princes of Transylvania once ruled.

From the citadel's fortifications, still crowned by a mighty Habsburg eagle, the view stretches across the plain where in 1442 Janos Hunyadi, that most picturesque of Hungarian heroes, decisively defeated the Turks.

In contrast, Romania's glory here, such as it is, is confined to a grotesque

column which was erected under Ceausescu by an unhappy architect forced to invent some history to legitimize that dictator's transfer of hundreds of thousands of Romanians from the south of the country to Transylvania in the north.

In the ancient, dusty cathedral, where stained-glass windows are smashed, lie the sarcophagi of Hunyadi and his wife. A stone's throw away stands the Batthyaneum, a fabulous library of books founded by a Hungarian prince-bishop in 1794 and extensively looted by Ceausescu in the 1970s.

These and other abuses the Hungarians have never forgotten. The Front in Bucharest, however, remains silent over them.

Nearby, a Jesuit church converted into a gunpowder store is eloquent testimony to how debased this unmistakably European part of Romania has become. Despite efforts to defuse tension which has flared into violence on several occasions here since the December revolution, the Hungarians' patience is clearly running out. Those who queued

to vote here did so with long, anxious faces. For the Magyars, the Romanians were forced to vote for the National Salvation Front.

"There is only one solution to Transylvania's problems and that is complete autonomy. Why should we be ruled by a corrupt clique in Bucharest who continue to deny us our fundamental rights?" asks Mr Gabor Szabo, a teacher in the town.

"You will see," says an old German woman preparing to join relatives in Stuttgart, "the Hungarians are never satisfied. There will be more blood spilt here before long."

Mr Istvan Fischer, another teacher here, says the Hungarian success in the election is the result of their strong sense of community. "We have had to stick together for so many years. We will have to stick together for many more. These elections prove that we are always an island of civilization in a sea of chaos. But when I think of my children, I am afraid for the future."

West of here, in Timisoara, the capital of the Banat and the spark which ignited

the December revolution, the Charter of Timisoara calls on Bucharest to admit that the revolution began there on December 16, and not on December 21 as Bucharest alleges.

Article 8 of the Charter also demands that former Communist Party members should be banned from holding office for 10 years. This clause, not surprisingly, is spurned by the Front to the increasing anxiety and resentment of the people in the Banat.

In the short term all of Eastern Europe must reconcile itself to being poorer, more unstable and, in many ways, more corrupt than it has ever been before. For Romanians this will produce distortions which could rock even the well-developed system of control that the National Salvation Front has inherited from the Communists.

In comparison with Romania, Hungary is a staggeringly prosperous country. The differences in living standards which will open up between the two neighbouring countries over the next few years will serve only to exacerbate tensions.

Yeltsin's bandwagon boosted by military

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MR BORIS Yeltsin's chances of being elected President of the Russian Federation improved dramatically yesterday when pressure from deputies compelled the chairman to allow him to speak. Parts of his programme were then backed by a senior member of the Soviet military, destroying widespread assumptions that the military hierarchy might exert pressure to prevent Mr Yeltsin's election.

It was the first time in five days of acrimonious debate that Mr Yeltsin, who is the radicals' choice for President, had taken the floor, and his 10-minute address — on the sovereignty of the Russian Federation — earned him a standing ovation from about 30 supporters and loud applause from the Russian Federation's congress as a whole. Sensing perhaps that Mr Yeltsin's campaign was gathering strength, his supporters lined the pathway across the Kremlin Cathedral courtyard by an unprecedented demonstration of enthusiasm.

Mr Yeltsin's address to the thousand-strong Russian Federation congress took many deputies by surprise, as



Guardians of democracy: Armed policemen keeping watch over uncounted Romanian election votes in the cellar of a court in Ploiesti

Voters give carte blanche to Iliescu

From TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

THE most urgent task facing Romania's new bicameral parliament is to write a new constitution. With more than two-thirds of the votes from last Sunday's general election counted by yesterday evening, counted by yesterday evening, it was assumed that the speaker would be Mr Yeltsin. Yesterday, however, it was announced that the speaker would be Mr Vitali Vorotnikov, the current unelected chairman of the presidium of the Russian Federation's supreme soviet, or President.

The decision to let Mr Yeltsin speak was only taken after much procedural wrangling. The debate on the sovereignty of the Russian Federation and the new Union treaty — to which Mr Yeltsin's address was a contribution — was included in the agenda after extended squabbling last week, but no speaker was nominated, although reformist deputies were keen to assume that the speaker would be Mr Yeltsin. Yesterday, however, it was announced that the speaker would be Mr Vitali Vorotnikov, the current unelected chairman of the presidium of the Russian Federation's supreme soviet, or President.

The hall erupted in anger. Mr Vorotnikov is regarded as a politician in the old style and was widely expected to be retiring from his job at the congress. His half-hour address was pedestrian and conservative in tone, carefully balancing the perceived requirements of the republic with those of the centre and suggesting that little need change except on paper.

Later, however, with President Gorbachov looking on from the gallery, a rival to Mr Yeltsin emerged, if only in terms of rhetorical skill and popularity. This was retired General Dmitri Volkogonov, a biographer of Stalin. He spans the extremes of Soviet politics — calling for a combination of more discipline and more *glasnost* in an unusual way, which leads some to believe that he could represent the interests of the KGB.

The general spoke eloquently of the inadequacies of the Soviet political system which allowed too few real leaders to develop and so concentrated power in too few hands. To audible gasps from the audience, he said: "Our 70-year historic experiment has ended — in historic failure." And he criticized the inability of the Soviet leadership to come up with any specific strategy to extract the country from its present crisis.

Hinting at one course that might be favoured by the military, he called for the establishment of "something like the Committee for Public Safety" that was set up in France after the Revolution to try to improve the "sad face" of Russia today.

General Volkogonov also called for a strong Russia. "If we had had a strong Russia," he said, "then we would have none of the problems we now face in the Baltic, the Caucasus or Central Asia."

He said that the most urgent

Estonia warned of job losses

From ANATOL LEIVEN IN TALLINN

AS a general strike by Russian-speaking workers continues for a second day — without affecting most essential services — Dr Edgar Savisaar, the Estonian Prime Minister, warned yesterday that workers should brace themselves for considerable unemployment as a result of economic restructuring.

Introducing his Government's programme, the Prime Minister said inflation in the republic in the first quarter of this year was up by around 8 per cent over the final quarter of last year, and food prices had risen by 11 per cent — suggesting a real danger of price rises spinning out of control. Dr Savisaar said his Government was committed to privatization, but that in the case of large industries this must be a gradual process beginning with the granting of shares to workers.

He said that the most urgent reforms concerned privatization, prices policy, and compensation for people who suffer loss of income as a result of economic change. Several laws would be introduced in the summer, and in October and November there would be "complex changes". The programme is

poorly in the elections gaining less than 2 per cent.

The National Liberal Party could, when all the votes are counted, pip the Hungarian Union to the post for the position of second largest party, but yesterday evening they were trailing in third place with just more than 6 per cent.

The Liberal's showing is a massive disappointment for its supporters, many of whom are intellectuals and professionals. The party favours a quicker and more radical move to a market economy than the Front and it probably stands to gain votes in two years' time if the new government fails to open up the economy.

The new parliament's fourth party is the Romanian Ecologist Movement. It has gained approximately 3 per cent of the votes so far.

Romania is one of the most polluted countries of Eastern Europe and new research has begun to reveal its serious effects on public health. In the town of Copșa Mică, for example, workers and their families are affected by a wide variety of illnesses directly attributable to the toxic emissions of local factories. While

the Romanian greens are as keen as their Western counterparts to bring pollution under control, they are also well aware of the massive scale of the task.

Since there appear to have been few, if any, pollution controls here over the past four decades, the job of cleaning up Romania and installing controls is going to be a long and expensive one. For this reason the Romanian Ecologists have declared that they will not oppose the opening of Romania's first nuclear power station at Cernavoda.

They say that being of Canadian and not Soviet design it is, in their opinion, safe and that they cannot oppose a "clean" source of power in a country where people have gone cold in winter for so long.

The Romanian parliament's fifth party is to be the right-wing National Peasant Party. With a derisory 2.2 per cent of the votes so far counted the party's performance has been little short of catastrophic. The party's membership and leadership has been dominated by an older generation, many of whom were simply returning to their old pre-war party.

With so few seats in parliament it is hard to see how the party, against which the Front addressed its most vitriolic denunciations during the election campaign, can have any influence.

The question of how much influence the other main parties will have also remains to be seen. Before the election both President Iliescu and Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister, indicated that they favoured the idea of a coalition government.

On Monday President Iliescu appeared to hint that this possibility might still be open. He said: "We want competent people. I personally support an opening towards all those who are ready to assume responsibility in the national interest."

Over the next few days it will become clear whether seats in the new government are really on offer to the opposition parties — and whether they would be prepared to accept them.

The National Salvation Front and its new government are now on trial. For months the Front has denied being the old communist party in disguise. The next two years will give the Front ample time to show its true colours.

MEPs gain power with court ruling

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

IN A decision which will do much to boost the European Parliament's quest for more power, the European Court of Justice yesterday allowed the Parliament to bring its first ever law suit against the Council of Ministers for bypassing MEPs in taking a decision on food safety.

The court agreed that Parliament could bring a case against the council for its decision in 1988 to limit the sale of food contaminated by the Chernobyl disaster without consulting the Strasbourg assembly. The ministers based their decision on an article of the Euratom treaty, which ignores Parliament's views, instead of Article 100 of the Treaty of Rome making parliamentary consultation mandatory.

Meanwhile yesterday the Lithuanian parliament was debating alternative drafts for a fresh compromise to Mr Gorbachov. None talked of suspending the declaration of independence, but one, listing laws which should be suspended, mentioned those establishing ownership of Soviet property, stopping the activities of Soviet military recruitment offices, establishing border guards and Customs and establishing citizens registration.

Yesterday's decision is important for two reasons. First, it explicitly recognizes for the first time the new powers given to Parliament under the Single European Act. The ruling spells out that if Parliament finds its interests are overlooked, it can now take legal action.

Secondly, the ruling reinforces the role of the European Court of Justice as a kind of supreme court, able to decide the relative constitutional functions of the three pillars of the Community — the Council, the Commission and Parliament. This has substantial implications in the debate on "subsidiarity" — the principle that Brussels should leave to member states those issues best decided at national rather than EC level.

The court's agreement to

look at the MEPs' complaint

comes at a time when Parliament's proposals for more power are running into strong opposition from most member states, especially Britain and France, which want to keep the Council of Ministers as the Community's main decision-making body.



Dr Savisaar: Privatization will advance gradually

Into battle, cautiously

Martin Jacques

The poll tax debate has peaked; the Conservatives have passed the local election test without too much damage; Mrs Thatcher has, for the moment at least, survived the worst crisis of her third term. It is a reminder for Labour that, while governments may lose elections, oppositions should not rely on them to do so. Meanwhile, the focus has switched to Labour and its own offerings. Today its national executive committee will adopt the final version of the long-running policy review, from which it will draw its next election manifesto.

It is a dull document. True, it contains some good ideas, but there are no riveting themes. It is pervaded by an atmosphere of caution and timidity. The problem starts, not surprisingly, with economic policy. This is where Labour feels at its most insecure. It is haunted by memories of the past, by its failure in the 1960s and especially the 1970s. Economic policy has been the one area of political debate where Thatcherism has won the argument hands down. Little remains of the old nostrums of Labour economic thinking.

Above all, the purpose of this document is to assure voters that Labour will behave itself. Taxes will be raised, but only on the wealthy; public spending will be kept in check; inflation will be a key priority; and to underline the promised virtuousness, the discipline of the EMS exchange rate mechanism will be embraced and respected.

Of course, all this is easier said than done. Labour will come under pressure from its own supporters to deliver some of the goods which are displayed, though for the most part deliberately not promised, in this document. It is pressure that, by and large, I think it is likely to resist. The conversion, in other words, is complete.

And for two reasons. First, it has indeed lost the economic argument, as the left has lost it virtually everywhere. And secondly, and more important, the internationalization of the economy has undermined the idea of national economic policy as previously espoused by the social-democratic model. Trade controls are no longer feasible; nor is expansion in one country. The ERM will mark the end of interest rates and the exchange rate as an instrument of policy. Credit controls are much less potent than they used to be. What is left is simply taxation and public spending. An era is at an end. Once the cause of the left was intimately tied to its economic beliefs; now it is shorn of them.

Labour's claim to a distinct identity must therefore be sought outside the economic arena. But where? The text, as I said, is peppered with good ideas. It feels

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Before going into a boardroom lunch with several major figures from the world of new technology, I found myself having a glass of wine and a sandwich while standing next to the very man who had organized the computerization of directory inquiries. He seemed a little stiff, so I thought I would relax him by asking him how many sandwiches he usually managed to eat at this type of reception.

"The answer you require," he said — a shade formally. I thought — "is: 0-7-1-0-1-8-9-3-40."

"Pardon me," I said, "I didn't quite catch that."

"I repeat," he continued, "the answer you require is: oh, s/heaven! one's a hero! one ate nine free for tea!"

"Pretty good going!" I said, helping myself to another.

"I repeat," he continued, "the answer you require is..."

Luckily, just as he was about to go on and on about it, the alarm system sounded for lunch, and we all trundled in.

We gathered around the table, ready to sit at our allotted places. The chairman of the new technology luncheon, who is also a leading figure in the world of the fax machine, eased into his chair at one end, only to emerge at the other end, seconds later, with his left arm slightly askew.

It is always difficult in these situations to know whom to talk to first. As we got started on the smoked salmon, I turned to a man on my right, who, I learnt from his handy lapel badge, is one of the country's prime movers in the multi-million-pound answerphone business. How, I asked him, is the answerphone business doing these days?

"I'm sorry," he replied, very chirpily, "there's no one in at the moment. Please leave your name and your number after the beep and I will get back to you on my return."

I was a little taken aback. "I was wondering..." I said.

"Beep!" he interrupted me, and a silence followed.

"It's Craig Brown here," I said, somewhat embarrassed. "I'm talking to you at lunchtime. Could you get back to me as soon as possible?"

Having left my message, I

confident and thoroughly modern on consumer rights, training and the environment, for example. But as a whole, it lacks a cutting-edge. It plays for safety. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the review is clearly economic-driven, thereby lending a cautious and conservative feel to the whole document. This is not a party which wants to take any risks or set any agendas. It does not want to step an inch out of line from where it thinks public opinion is. After all these years in the wilderness, Labour craves respectability.

The problem with this approach is that it may not provide people with enough reason to vote Labour. Even in its natural territory, social justice and the welfare state, one gets a feeling of caution, or at least an unwillingness to experiment and think big. It remains a vote-winner for Labour, but there is little to excite.

Yet lurking in this document, one senses, there is the beginning of a new agenda which is different and does have the capacity to enthuse. Take Europe. The events in Central and Eastern Europe, together with the Kohl-Mitterrand proposals, open the prospect of a very different continent. Is Britain going to be a full-hearted participant in the debate or not? Labour could present itself as the European party, a party with a sense of history and vision, one that can rise above party point-scoring. On the evidence of this document, it will not. There is no sense of the wider arguments, of the decline of the nation-state and the necessity of an integrated European future. It remains the cautious European, edging pragmatically forward, still driven too much by the thought of upstaging Mrs Thatcher.

Then there is the question of constitutional reform. If you add together the various proposals — an elected second chamber, assemblies for Scotland and Wales, English regional assemblies, a Freedom of Information Act — the package is pretty formidable. It marks the beginnings of a decisive break with the antiquated, centralized state that Britain remains and to which Labour has historically been party. But is it presented like this? Yet again the details of policy swamp the broader themes. The Alliance parties made a rather better fist of it in the mid-1980s.

Labour has fully embraced the current economic orthodoxy. It remains strong on social compassion, if lacking in novelty. And it certainly has some feel for the new world of the 1990s. But on this evidence, it does not have a new agenda. Or rather, there is the embryo of a new agenda, but Labour does not as yet have the confidence really to go for it. It will have to hope that Thatcherism's crisis is as deep as it appeared to be two months ago.

Labour's claim to a distinct identity must therefore be sought outside the economic arena. But where? The text, as I said, is peppered with good ideas. It feels

John Maddox calls for restrictions on greenhouse gases but warns against oversimplification

Let reason rule on global warming

Brooding on the prospect of global calamity seems to have become a passion. Now that the risk of nuclear warfare has receded, the threat of a general increase in the temperature of the surface of the earth looks likely to take its place. Yesterday *The Guardian* published a leaked report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which will further accentuate alarm about the greenhouse effect.

After 40 years of speculation and calculation, there is now a general understanding of what that means. The Earth's atmosphere is crucial for making the surface habitable. Much of the sunlight reaching the surface is converted into infrared radiation which cannot directly escape into planetary space because of the water vapour and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

That is the natural greenhouse effect. Were the atmosphere otherwise, the climate would literally be like that during the last Ice Age — far too cold for human habitation except in the tropics. But the

atmosphere is now loaded with gases that either did not exist before the Industrial Revolution or which are now more plentiful.

The most significant is carbon dioxide, produced by the burning of all fossil fuels — coal, oil and even wood. On present trends, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will have doubled by 2035. But the greenhouse effect is also likely to be enhanced by the chemicals called CFCs, widely used as refrigerants, and by methane which is increasing rapidly for reasons not properly understood.

There is no controversy about these developments, but their consequences are much debated, as will be the IPCC report when it is published in full. While there is no dispute that extra amounts of the greenhouse gases will raise the temperature at the surface of the earth, there is great uncertainty as to the extent and the timing.

That is not surprising. Only computer simulations can tell how the climate will change. The best models predict an increase of average temperature of 4°C by 2035, but that may be substantially abated when better models

can take account of real clouds (which should be more plentiful if the temperature increases and which would reflect more sunlight back into space).

As for the timing, present models do not adequately cater for the interaction between the atmosphere and the oceans, which can absorb large amounts of heat and may thus delay any predicted degree of global warming. Plainly it is of great practical importance whether there is less than half a century to cope with a 4°C increase.

Predicting the effects of climate change is more difficult still. *The Guardian's* leaked report takes the computer predictions as given, estimating the consequences for weather patterns and agriculture. If the leaks are accurate, the report seems incautiously oversimplistic.

On one crucial point, for example, it is said that American influence in the world will be undermined by the collapse of US agriculture caused by global warming. Yet the most elaborate study of that issue, by a group of US agronomists which appears in this week's *Nature*, concludes that

crop production and grain exports could be maintained but at considerable cost — chiefly that of increased irrigation. That conclusion depends on the increased efficiency of photosynthesis as does carbon dioxide concentration. If carbon dioxide concentration must at some point change the climate, the dispute is simply about how much and by when. So something must be done. What?

The most urgent need is for an international convention to regulate the production of greenhouse gases (luckily the CFCs are already regulated by the 1987 Montreal Convention, intended originally to safeguard the ozone layer). The difficulties in reaching such an agreement will be huge. How will quota for greenhouse gases be distributed between rich and poor countries? Will they be tradable? What is the best balance between avoiding change and adapting to it — and how will that be decided?

Given the slow pace of diplomacy — it will have taken almost 20 years to negotiate this year's superpower agreement on strategic arms — the sooner a start is made, the better. Luckily, a start is to be made in November.

The author is *Editor of Nature*.

Curing the Greek disease — or is it just all show?

Andrew McEwen reports on attempts by the new prime minister to come to grips with the worst corruption and overmanning in Western Europe

The strike which paralyzed much of Greece yesterday was not a good omen for Constantine Mitsotakis after only six weeks as prime minister, or for the long overdue austerity measures he has promised. While it may yet prove to be no more than a token challenge by the unions, the shuttered shops and deserted airports hardly suggest a nation ready to purge itself after eight years of financial recklessness.

Much was heard of the need for catharsis during the three elections campaigns Greece has endured in the last 11 months. Mr Mitsotakis used the word in its better-known sense to call for a cleansing of public life, reeling from the Bank of Crete scandal and a lack of moral leadership. As used by Aristotle, however, the word has a more apt meaning: an outlet for emotions afforded by drama. It is not too cynical to ask how much of the present situation is substance, and how much theatre.

Greece faces the most serious economic problems of any EC member, and has acquired some of the worst habits of corruption. Mr Mitsotakis is a man of quiet dignity far removed from the hustling populism of Andreas Papandreou, his socialist predecessor. Few doubt his sincerity in wishing to tackle both problems, even if he has started more cautiously than some would have liked.

What is in question is the willingness of the Greek people to take seriously anyone who preaches austerity and rectitude. In a country where 40 per cent of gross domestic product comes from the black economy, the people have a measure of security that official figures fail to reflect. The years of socialist rule (1981-89) saw mismanagement and corruption grow very much worse, but they were not the socialists' creation.

It is the government that is poor, not the people" is a familiar refrain based on the evidence of

bustling shops and restaurants, but this prosperity is partly illusory, based on Papandreou's spendthrift policies, which left Greece with debts equivalent to a year's gross domestic product.

Two familiar sets of players have re-entered the stage since last week, when the first phase of economic measures was announced. This included raising the government-fixed prices for basic foodstuffs, bus fares and other essentials, including fuel. It was followed on Friday by plans to privatize 21 heavily indebted state-owned industrial companies and close seven "ailing industries". Many more state companies will face a similar fate later, but some protection for the unemployed has been announced. The 20,000 employees of the "ailing industries" who will lose their jobs will receive full salaries for a year, and the government will provide retraining.

There is much more to come. In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Mitsotakis promised a tough budget by the end of the month to reduce the huge deficit, but said it would take about three years "to get it down to an acceptable level". He did not define "acceptable", but as the 1989 public sector borrowing requirement was equivalent to 22 per cent of GDP, there is a long way to go.

The players have been deployed as follows: entering from the right are the Greek middle classes, represented by Mr Mitsotakis' New Democracy party, with scripts annotated by the European Community, the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

These were the unheeded "Cassandras" of the 1980s, who now feel their prophecies of economic chaos have been proved right. Witness the fact that under Papandreou, state owner of industry increased to 70 per cent. "We share the same problems as Eastern Europe," Mitsotakis says.

Entering from the left is a cast



led by the future jobless. (Many of these, however, have something to fall back on which is hidden from the notoriously inefficient Greek taxman.) Union leaders supporting their cause object to the government's intention to end the effective index-linking of pay.

Mr Mitsotakis, who is robust 71, correctly calculates that, even with only 150 New Democracy MPs and one supporter from another party in a parliament of 300, he will have little difficulty in forcing through the factory closures. The vast majority of the

public long ago accepted the folly of pouring drachmas into dead industries. The abuse of patronage reached extraordinary proportions: Mr Mitsotakis says that it continued until very recently, with the government payroll being swollen by 100,000 employees, most of whom were "completely useless". Indeed, the government does not know how many civil servants there are, and is only now conducting a count.

Some state industries, the prime minister said, were over-staffed four or fivefold, or even

public long ago accepted the folly of pouring drachmas into dead industries. The abuse of patronage reached extraordinary proportions: Mr Mitsotakis says that it continued until very recently, with the government payroll being swollen by 100,000 employees, most of whom were "completely useless". Indeed, the government does not know how many civil servants there are, and is only now conducting a count.

Now there will be much surprise if it turns out that Mr Mitsotakis's real priority is not economic but electoral reform. Until Greece's proportional representation system is modified in a way which allows governments to govern with a reasonable majority, their scope for real change will remain limited. Many think this explains why his proposed measures do not go even further. Greece may have to face yet another election before long.

DIARY

bloom was grown in her honour and named after her. The Margaret Thatcher remains a favourite among rose growers, although some have dared to voice the belief that its popularity is starting to fade. The Tories, meanwhile, have just launched a summer offensive against the "wilting" red rose of Walworth Road.

L Labour is far from the first to seek to exploit the enduring attraction of England's quintessential flower. Since the Wars of the Roses, the red rose has been ruthlessly exploited in both commercial and political life. Mills & Boon has long used it to attract the lovebird. The red and white Tudor rose, representing the union of York and Lancaster, is popularly used in heraldry and is the symbol of that bastion of male supremacy, the All England Rugby Club. Countless personalities, among them Tony Jacklin, Geoff Boycott, Felicity Kendal, Cleo Laine, Angela Rippon and Susan Hampshire have had roses in various shades of red named after them. They have been used to advertise everything from disposable nappies to bath salts, cigarettes and newspapers. *The Times* has its own rose, a tall,

many institutions — they think they must be different from everything that has gone before. Glyndebourne is there to produce the best Mozart in the world. Unless it does so, it ceases to have significance as an operatic institution." Heath met the cast afterwards, but was diplomatic to the end. "The orchestra played well and the chorus sang well. Some of the leading parts were well sung," he told them.

Home to roost

Nicholas Ridley, under attack from all quarters over his scheme to split the Nature Conservancy Council into separate English, Scottish and Welsh sections, has found an enthusiastic champion in the House of Lords. His older brother, Viscount Ridley, has been quick to point out to their lordships the sharp differences in the field of conservation north and south of the border. Take, for example, the story of the goosander bird, a member of the duck family, which was once "rightly" persecuted in Scotland as a voracious devourer of young salmon and trout. A bounty of half-a-crown was placed on its head. Yet at the same time, south of the border the goosander was protected as a rare breeding species. This resulted, says Viscount Ridley, in landowners on the south side of the Tweed waving flags to drive the bird over to the Scottish side. "The Scottish riparian owners would shoot it and claim the half-a-crown, giving back one shilling and threepence to the English." Such enterprise ought to commend itself to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Thorny ground

Mrs Thatcher's insistence at the Chelsea Flower Show that red roses could not be "hijacked by any political party" does not extend, it seems, to roses of a delicate pink. She was not heard to protest when such a



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THE PRICE OF PRE-EMINENCE

posed to be? But then in which the alarm is rect. The natural effect is real — and the contamination of carbon dioxide is some point change. The dispute is now much and by what must be done. What most urgent need is to a production of greenhouse gases by the 1987 Convention, intended to protect the ozone layer. The movement will be huge. It's for greenhouse gases between red and blue. Will they be reduced? The best balance between change and adapting how will that be done? The slow pace of change will have taken away to negotiate this power agreement of firms — the sooner the better. Luckily, a made in November. author is Editor of *News*

In the past decade, police numbers have risen by 15 per cent with further rises forecast over the next two years. In London, Metropolitan Police numbers have grown by an extraordinary 28 per cent. Local and central government spending on the police has comfortably outstripped inflation. So has police pay. In 1988 the police won a claim of double the public-sector average, contributing to a rise in real earnings of 41 per cent since 1979. The Home Office has also regularly conceded to the police periodic re-equipping grants, extended legal powers of arrest and search, a slow pace of civilianization to maintain police overtime and protection from pressure to introduce an "officer class" to improve management.

In return, the police have collected statistics showing, except for a brief dip in 1988, a rising "crime wave", published on a quarterly basis, stoking public concern and sustaining pressure on ministers for further resources. These figures have been widely promulgated, and accepted by the media, despite the more authoritative British Crime Survey (from the Home Office) showing that Britain experiences a relatively constant level of criminality. Given the prominence that law and order enjoys in the Conservative grassroots, this political blackmail has been starkly successful. Only Mr. Douglas Hurd, in a courageous speech to the federation when Home Secretary, dared call the police bluff and demand some sign that the resources being poured into fighting crime were yielding some social, and political, return.

The police claim, with some justice, to be in the front line against the community's unpleasant tendencies. Crowd violence, drug abuse, street crime and the theft that comes with rising prosperity are all dumped in the police lap. The public expects to enjoy improving

social order and expects the police to deliver it. Many police feel beleaguered as a result.

Yet the police have been in the front line against these tendencies for two centuries, victims of a growing middle-class demand for security but not of any great surge in lawlessness. In comparison with other countries, Britain is not overwhelmed by crime, even in its inner cities. A recent Home Office report suggested that Britain does "fear crime" more than most Europeans, probably because of the media hyperbole surrounding crime statistics. While the presence of policemen on foot allays worry, screaming cars, blaring sirens, the rash of lurid crime-watch programmes on television and the intensive advertising of anti-crime equipment all increase fearfulness.

The police might have responded by shifting some of this burden of maintaining communal order on to other, less costly, services such as traffic wardens, court ushers, civilian clerks and private security firms. On the whole, they have resisted such moves, worried that such a shift in responsibility might diminish the case for even more policemen.

The federation today expected to be Labour the Home Secretary, Mr. David Waddington, for cutting some police allowances. Scarred by recent instances of corruption and insipidness — not widespread and confined to a few forces — the police sense that they have lost public confidence and that this may be reflected in future pay settlements. If so, drastic measures must be taken to restore confidence.

Less stress should be placed on the conquest of crime, more on its prevention. All crime figures should be processed by the Home Office and released no more than every six months. There should be a substantial downgrading of much policing, notably traffic control and court work. And police recruitment and leadership should be opened to a wide variety of experiences and skills. The police must be reintegrated into the community. Policing is not a politically-privileged freemasonry. It is the pre-eminent social service and must be re-established as such.

THE 'INTIFADA' SPREADS

Sunday's murder of Palestinian labourers by a deranged Israeli, and the ensuing riots with their high toll of Palestinian dead and injured, have reignited the 30-month old *intifada*. The blaze has spread from the occupied territories to previously peaceful towns in Israel itself, and over the River Jordan.

The Arab summit in Baghdad next week testifies to the growing prestige of President Saddam Hussein. Israel's politicians seem incapable of forming a government able to end their year-long policy drift. Their claims to have contained the *intifada* are doubly discredited: the uprising now looks containable neither in scope nor in geographical extent. Palestinians, and many Israeli commentators, are convinced that Sunday's murders could have occurred only in a climate of right-wing support for "extreme measures" against disident Arabs. Palestinian frustrations are reflected in rising anti-Semitism and the increasing influence of hardline fundamentalist groups like Hamas which advocate a fully-armed uprising.

The price to Israel of preserving the status quo in the occupied territories has thus been raised. The governability of the Gaza Strip and West Bank is once again in question. The Arab communities in Israel itself have now joined in the troubles. So have the communities in Jordan, over half of whose population is Palestinian. In conformity with its decision to relax political controls, Jordan has recently permitted Palestinian marches and rallies. The policy carried risks, which now seem to have been realized. The Muslim Brotherhood only recently demanded the creation of a "popular army" in Jordan to fight Israel. Yesterday's appeals for calm from Jordan's mosques suggest that King Hussein now believes Jordan is close to having one — or at least to having its own *intifada*. Without a political settlement of some sort within Israel, the prospect is of

escalating violence and civil disobedience. This could destroy Israel's political equilibrium.

Frustration with Israel is mounting in the Middle East following the Likud Party's rejection of the Baker plan for Israeli-Egyptian-Palestinian talks. Fury over the expected emigration to Israel of up to a million Soviet Jews fans the flames. The United States has said that "restraint" by Israeli security forces is necessary, but not sufficient, and that Israel must return to an "active, viable, peace process".

The first step is clearly the establishment of a stable government in Israel. Mr. Yitzhak Shamir's efforts to do this hit a serious obstacle yesterday when Moledet, the religious party which advocates "autonomy" for Palestinians to Jordan, walked out of negotiations. If he fails, he has two options. The first, a return to coalition government, is a recipe for stalemate. The second is to call fresh elections. Given the almost equal split in Israel over the central issue of land-for-peace, these would solve nothing.

The most obvious escape route from stalemate is a firm commitment to electoral reform. Since March, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets in protest over both main parties' unseemly horse-trading to secure a parliamentary majority. President Herzog has demanded reform, saying that Israel's proportional system gives "disproportionate influence" to tiny, often extremist, religious parties and will lead to catastrophe.

In addition, Mr. Shamir should reconsider his rejection of the Baker plan. It is based on the ideas he himself put forward a year ago. Changed circumstances will make the plan yet more difficult to negotiate, but the plan is still the only game in town — other than the game of death so grimly played out this week.

SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT

Inflation is a many splendoured thing. Shortly after the Conservatives came to power in 1979, the cost of answering an oral question in Parliament was £39. (Written ones were a better buy at £24.) Last summer, the Conservative member for Pembroke, Mr. Nicholas Bennett, invited the Prime Minister to catalogue the achievements of her Government since 1979. The reply took up a modest 34 columns of Hansard, and the cost of the exercise was £4,600. This must be some sort of a record. Is anyone to be congratulated for it?

The rising cost of asking questions has not been matched by an improvement in the quality of the exchanges. For the first time since the early 1970s, the Commons Select Committee on Procedure has given its mind to what it characterizes in its report as "a grotesque waste of resources". There may never have been a golden age when back-benchers subjected the executive to the fearsome inquisition implied by the textbooks. But even the residual opportunity to keep an eye on what ministers are up to has been steadily eroded by underarm deliveries, mainly to the Prime Minister, asking her to list her engagements for the day.

These so-called "open" questions are the prelude to a well-rehearsed and often planted supplementary, although as the televising of the Commons has shown, some MPs are better than others at concealing the crib slipped to them by the whips. (Referring to notes is out of order, and the cry of "Reading!" comes as raucously from either side of the House as does "Howzat?" from a West Indian in the deep field.)

Unease at the abuse of question time is not new. Mr. Speaker Thomas had severe things to say on the matter during his time in the chair. Now, the select committee detects no great need for a "change in standing orders": which is a polite way of saying it thinks the present

Speaker should be stricter. It is critical of long-winded ministerial replies and calls for the number of questions an MP may put to a particular minister to be restricted to two. Most important, the committee frowns on "syndication", a rigging device favoured by parliamentary private secretaries and whips who farm out identical questions in large numbers so as to increase the probability of "desirable" subjects crowding out those deemed less so.

The statue of the Commons is not an abstraction. It rests in any age with the members who lounge on its benches and on their sense of what constitutes tolerable manners. Objections to question time on the ground that it is occasionally a bear-garden are misplaced. Parliament has always been noisy, and an element of theatre — of *corrida*, even — is welcome. That is different from allowing the Commons to become simply a television game show, however much that may be in the interest of the whips and the party machines.

The House of Commons still can use its influence to discipline, or at least frighten, the executive and to inform the public of matters that might otherwise have been concealed. Question time is important in that process. If individual MPs and the parties they belong to are alive to their own interest, the planted question industry should be subjected to market forces and drastically run down. "Open" questions should be a thing of the past — they are a demeaning alternative to the press conferences to which most democratic leaders now submit themselves. There should be a return to the practice of tabling questions on specific points with supplementaries once again given some force. The real check on the actions of ministers and their officials is not the question which is asked, but the one which may be.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improving democracy in N Ireland

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, Last Thursday's Upper Bann by-election (report, May 19) gives food for thought on three aspects. The first concerns the lack of true democracy in Northern Ireland. Since its creation the province has been ruled from Westminster by political parties it had no voice in electing, and whose policies were never submitted to its voters. Nor have they ever had any input in the formation of those policies.

At this by-election two of our main parties, the Conservatives and the SDP, at last offered candidates. The other two continued the traditional stance. Labour's refusal caused a former chairman of the Northern Ireland Labour Party (with which Labour always declined to affiliate) to stand "for the right to vote Labour". On May 7 he told a press conference at Portadown that Labour is about to announce its new policy on Northern Ireland, adding

Years faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
62 Thames Street, Oxford.
May 21.

From Mr David Trimble, MP for Upper Bann (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, Your report on the Upper Bann by-election result (May 19, early editions) referred to my alleged "appetite for hysterical anti-Roman Catholic rhetoric".

This is a very clear imputation of religious bigotry. It is also completely false. I am confident that you cannot produce a single statement by me to justify this defamatory statement.

The next sentence is, perhaps, more worrying. For as evidence of the slur it refers to a recent demonstration against the presence of Charles Haughey in Belfast. This of course was not an anti-Roman Catholic demonstration, but a demonstration against the Premier of the Irish Republic and its territorial claim to this part of the United Kingdom.

I believe it is important to try and distinguish between religion and politics. There is enough of a problem in Ulster because of the confusion of religion and politics and it is distressing to see that *The Times* is unable to draw the proper distinction.

Incidentally, during that demonstration I contented myself largely with shouting "Out, out, out!" If this is hysterical anti-Roman Catholic rhetoric then quite a few people in England are in trouble!

Yours sincerely,
DAVID TRIMBLE,
Ulster Unionist Council,
3 Glengall Street,
Belfast, Northern Ireland.

'Mad cow' disease

From Professor J. B. Cavanagh and others

Sir, As neuropathologists who either have been directly concerned in transmissible dementia or have critically watched over the years the evolution of scrapie research and are familiar with the two diseases in man, namely Kuru and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, we would like wholeheartedly to give our support to the Tyrell committee in their efforts to contain the present outbreak, and to allay public fears by putting the matter into a just perspective.

We would agree that transmission from cattle to man is certainly possible, although the risk is likely to be very small from the consumption of muscle tissue — witness the total lack of evidence for the transmission of scrapie from sheep to man after centuries of consumption of sheep meat.

The inclusion of central nervous tissue, lymph nodes, spleen, salivary glands and other similar "offal" in prepared meats, because it is in these tissues that the agent is most likely to replicate, albeit slowly, would be expected, we believe, marginally to enhance the risk.

The panic reaction of some educational bodies in removing beef from school menus can only emphasize, in our opinion, the ignorance in some quarters about the nature of the condition. We look forward to the rapid return of common sense among those responsible.

Yours faithfully,

J. B. CAVANAGH,
J. TREVOR HUGHES
(Green College, Oxford),
A. C. PALMER
(Veterinary School, Cambridge),
Toxicology Unit,
MRC Laboratories,
Woodmansterne Road,
Catinval, Surrey.

From Mrs J. E. J. Rogers

Sir, Trying to do the best for my unborn baby during pregnancy has proved to be more of a trial

than I anticipated. Acutely sensitive to myriad food scares, I find that I cannot eat eggs or poultry unless cooked to within an inch of their respective lives (salmonella), pâté or any foods that have been excessively "mucked about with" (histeria), cook/chill foods (histeria), raw meat of any description (toxoplasmosis), ice-cream or mayonnaise (histeria), beef in any form (BSE), soft or blue cheeses (histeria), pre-washed salad vegetables (histeria), in fact any fruit or salad vegetables that I have not personally washed myself (toxoplasmosis).

At the beginning of my pregnancy, I eschewed London tap water in favour of the more healthful bottled mineral water, only to discover when the bubble burst, that I was consuming potentially dangerous quantities of benzene. In the last week, those bastions of a pregnant woman's diet, liver and milk, have both been called into question: the former should apparently be avoided while the BSE controversy rages, while the latter is awash with a sinister hormone, BST (bovine somatotropin).

Soon, my baby will run more danger from malnutrition than from any of these diseases. In the meantime, I continue to make most of my meals around cheese sandwiches: if any of your readers know a good reason why I should not eat cheddar or wholemeal bread, I beg them to keep it to themselves.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLOTTE ROGERS,

97 Esham Street, SW18.

May 17.

From Sir Duncan Watson

Sir, Is it not about time that some distinguished scientist duly warned us that declining to eat or drink anything which could carry a risk to our health will inevitably be terminal?

Yours faithfully,

DUNCAN WATSON,

Scone, St. Ives Lane,

Oxted, Surrey.

May 14.

From Mr Michael Wilson

Sir, Department of Health sources

cannot be allowed to get away with the claim (report, May 10) that 430 GP practices have been rejected as volunteers to hold their own budgets because they lack the necessary computer and managerial facilities. This assumes that the original 850 practices who expressed an interest in holding budgets were all serious candidates. This assumption is patently untrue.

The 850 practices who originally expressed an interest in the idea did so by completing a Department of Health form that stated quite clearly: "Completing this form simply indicates your interest in discussing matters further. You will be under no obligation to join the scheme and will not have to make your final decision until early 1991".

For the department now to claim that 450 of these practices have been "rejected" is sheer chicanery. What is clear is that the number of GPs now interested in becoming fund holders under the Government's ill-thought-out reforms is melting like snow in summer. It is the GPs who are rejecting the Government's reforms, not the Government which is rejecting GPs.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL WILSON

(Chairman, General Medical

Services Committee),

British Medical Association,

BMA House,

Tavistock Square, WC1.

May 11.

that should air contact be made,

for whatever reason, you have been supported.

I would not support any claim to having reached the Pole unsupported when a team has had air contact or has had help in moving stores over the worst part of any Arctic journey — the pack ice.

Having given some advice to them last year, I do feel for the Norwegian team, having gone through the agony of walking to the Pole, but they must realize unsupported means without air contact, for whatever reasons.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES BURTON,

27a Leinster Square, W2.

May 17.

Tory need to put the family first

From Professor John A. Davis

Sir, One can only be relieved to note that Mrs Thatcher's one-time guru, Lord Joseph (report, May 17), has joined forces with the left wing of the Tory party to express concern about family life in the 1990s. It is the prime duty of any government to try to provide a facilitating administrative and social environment for the successful rearing of the nation's children, lacking which we will fail to obey the most fundamental of biological imperatives and to provide the basis of an ordinary good life for our future citizens — the ability to love and to work, to hold down a job and a marriage, as Freud succinctly put it.

Without vision the people will perish; and we need above all things spiritual and temporal leaders with vision — not conductors who only know how to keep time with the music.

What Mrs Thatcher does not

seem to understand is that the good qualities which she values and exhibits are not the product of good will in the personal moral sense but of an upbringing that fosters faith, hope and charity. These moral qualities are innate, but they need consolidation through early experience and this will be lacking if parents are too harshest by the effort of just keeping a household afloat.

Yours faithfully,

MEDIA

FRANK SPOONER

A torch to the bonfire

As New York lurches deeper into racial confrontation, the television and news media are under attack, James Bone reports

To hear Mayor David Dinkins tell it, the "crisis" in race relations in New York is largely a creation of the media. During the past 10 days, he has repeatedly criticized local newspapers and television stations for fanning the flames of racial unrest by quoting extremists. An assortment of professors of journalism and sanctimonious newspaper columnists have echoed his lament.

Where do these people live? None of them can have been in my local Chinese takeaway when a young black man was accidentally short-changed \$10 (£6.25) out of a \$20 bill. The Chinese cashier accused him, I think wrongly, of pocketing the banknote and the infuriated customer emptied his pockets on to the counter. No \$10 bill. "Not all black people steal," he yelled.

Inevitably, the police were called, and the situation was resolved by the Chinese manager parting with money from his own pocket to avoid trouble. The police were probably right when they accused the black man of having an "attitude problem" — but I doubt he got it from the media. When he left the takeaway, he crossed the street and went back to sleep in the park. I imagine the only newspapers he read were those he slept on.

Mr Dinkins seems to have decided that a round of media-bashing may be the best way to heal New York's racial divisions, on the theory that if events like this go unrecorded, they do not exist. He might be right.

By last weekend, the main targets of animosity in this tense city were the news media. Television crews venture into some areas only when accompanied by private security guards, and news photographers wear bullet-proof vests. As Gail Collins, a *Daily News* columnist, put it: "Black and white, Christian and Jew, united in their hatred of anybody with a pencil."

Mr Dinkins was elected as New York's first black mayor in the aftermath of the racial killing of a black youth by a white mob in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. Voters would hope he would be able to heal the wounds, and he immediately adopted a soft-sofa approach. For months, he ignored a black

boycott of two Korean-owned groceries in Brooklyn, which began when immigrant workers at the shop snubbed with a black woman accused of shoplifting. The Press followed suit. Then, earlier this month, a New York judge criticized the mayor's inaction — and the media jumped on the bandwagon. It was particularly timely because two murder cases stemming from the Bensonhurst killing were reaching their conclusion.

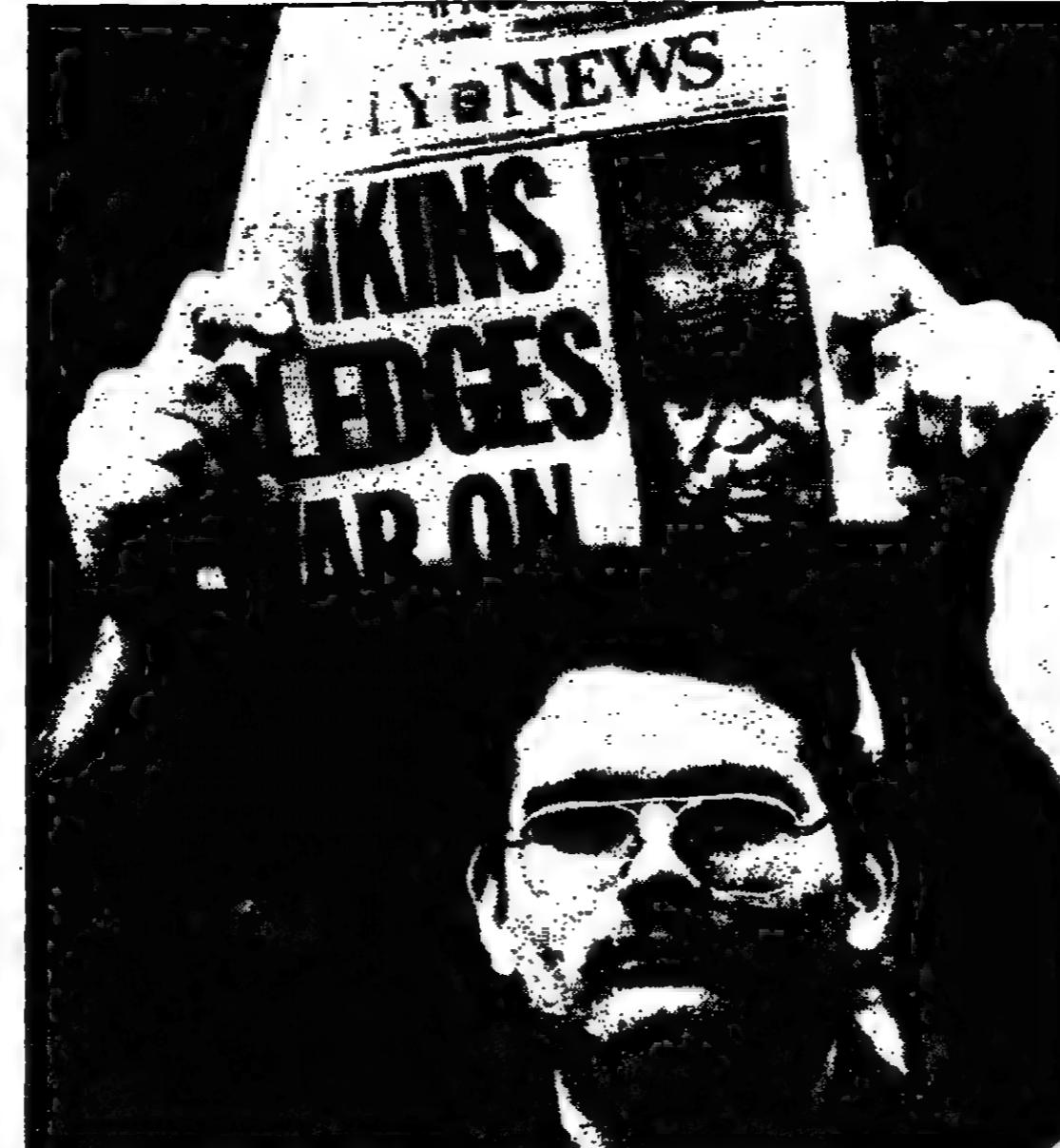
Ironically, Mr Dinkins's response to press criticism was to turn to the media himself. He delivered what he called a "major, major speech" on race relations, during which he apparently discovered the expediency of criticizing the media. Aides say the mayor was taken aback when his closing remarks — asking the media to play its part in easing tension — received rapturous applause from the assembled dignitaries. He has scolded the Press several times since, and others have begun to follow his example.

"The dialogue is dominated by those who can shout the loudest and spew the most venom," Mr Dinkins said. "It is incumbent upon those in the media to seek out and cover those whose views may be less confrontational."

The headline that particularly offended him was run by the tabloid *New York Post*, "Guilty or Else". The newspaper squawked before the Bensonhurst verdict. In an exclusive report, the *Post* quoted the Rev Al Sharpton, a controversial black leader, as saying: "If they the jurors come back with less than murder, you are lighting a match to the end of a powder keg and telling us to burn the town down."

Most New Yorkers continue to be fascinated, and appalled, by Mr Sharpton. He is so much a New York phenomenon that if God had not made one, New Yorkers would have had to invent one. In fact Tom Wolfe did, the Rev Bacon, a demagogic preacher-politician in his novel *Bonfire of the Vanities*.

By rights, Mr Sharpton should have been discredited a long time ago. A former FBI informant, he is now on trial for setting up a fake charity to fund his career as a concert promoter. Yet he managed to turn false accusations by a black teenage girl called Miss Tawana



Pressing for action: New York's mayor has blamed the media for fanning the racial flames

hurst, and last week was insisting on ground rules for any television stations that wanted to interview the boy's father.

All that means that Jerry Nachman, editor of the *New York Post*, is probably right when he defends his newspaper's decision to run its "Guilty or Else" story by arguing that it is news when the spokesman for the Bensonhurst victim threatens to torch the city.

Nevertheless, a parade of talking heads has been eager to condemn the media's sensationalism. They point to the intense competition between the city's three tabloids and the fact that this is the month when local television stations have their audience share determined.

Mr Dinkins has good reason to dislike Mr Sharpton. The radical preacher and his supporters have fired off some robust insults against the mayor in recent days. After Mr Dinkins's address to the city on racism, for example, Mr Vernon Mason, an anti-semitic lawyer who is an ally of Mr Sharpton, complained: "He ain't got no African left in him. He's got too many yarmulkes [skullcaps] on his head."

The sad fact is that Mr Sharpton has somehow won a following — even if it is, as one witness told his trial last month, by paying protesters a \$5 attendance fee. He has been appointed official spokesman for the family of Yusuf Hawkins, the 16-year-old shot in Benson-

hurst and last week was insisting on ground rules for any television stations that wanted to interview the boy's father.

All that means that Jerry Nachman, editor of the *New York Post*, is probably right when he defends his newspaper's decision to run its "Guilty or Else" story by arguing that it is news when the spokesman for the Bensonhurst victim threatens to torch the city.

Nevertheless, a parade of talking heads has been eager to condemn the media's sensationalism. They point to the intense competition between the city's three tabloids and the fact that this is the month when local television stations have their audience share determined. The *New York Times* ventured the typically wordy conclusion: "A review of news coverage of the Bensonhurst murder trials and the boycott of Korean grocery stores in Brooklyn over the past two weeks suggests that the critics were justifiably in labelling some print coverage

as superficial and sensational and in denouncing much local television coverage as distastefully inflammatory."

But reporters are feeling the brunt of this criticism out on the streets. Photographers have been attacked by both blacks and whites, and three TV vans were set upon and four reporters hurt after the Bensonhurst verdict.

Perhaps the best gauge of the prevailing anti-media sentiment came outside the Brooklyn courthouse while protesters awaited verdicts in the Bensonhurst trial. One man, identifying himself only as the "Reparation and Compensation for Slavery Man", kept photographers amused by burning an American flag. When he was finished, a TV crew tried to light up a barbecue. The police and fire brigade arrived and told the journalists to put it out. "Are you telling me you can burn a hamburger?" a television engineer.

This time, he won the day.

But where were the Americans?

Luxembourg's big TV conference was marred by cancellations

Luxembourg, which is perhaps the most strenuous efforts to be regarded as the media capital of Europe, always was a strange destination for a transatlantic show-down. And so it proved yesterday.

The original script for the grand-sounding Luxembourg Media Summit was certainly mouthwatering. In one corner, there would be the dollar-rich US media moguls and high-powered Bush Administration officials, who are plotting reprisals against the European Community for threatening to restrict the amount of prestige American programming, such as *Dallas*, shown on our screens.

In the other corner, British and European broadcasters would be joined by EC officials slightly puzzled by the American attitude — given that country's record of not showing imported programmes on their screens — but who essentially wanted to encourage television programme production in Europe to meet the growing demand from new channels.

With America having lodged a formal objection to the imposition of programme quotas in the EC directive on transfrontier broadcasting, there was even talk of the summit being needed to avoid a highly damaging trade war.

The directive originally proposed that 60 per cent of programming screened by European broadcasters should be made in the EC, thereby restricting non-EC (mainly American) material to 40 per cent. That was subsequently watered down to "a reasonable proportion".

But America having lodged a formal objection to the imposition of programme quotas in the EC directive on transfrontier broadcasting, there was even talk of the summit being needed to avoid a highly damaging trade war.

The American delegation might also have been surprised to learn from Jean Dondelinger, the EC Commissioner responsible for the media, that quotas were last year's argument, and that he looked forward to an audio-visual area "organized in association with our partners around the world, beginning with the US".

With so many participants unavoidably detained elsewhere, the first Luxembourg media summit did not get off to a flying start. The only question remaining last night was whether it would also be the last.

RICHARD EVANS

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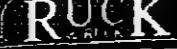
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ECONOMICS GRADUATE

Are the water babies safe?

As the British Gas babies swim into the nation's heart, there are worries

Over Britain, there is a boom in swimming for babies. At Crystal Palace, London, about 2,500 infants a week are taken to mother-and-baby classes designed to foster "water confidence".

This week, however, an advertisement for British Gas, showing a group of babies swimming underwater in the Red Sea, raised the whole question of safety for the water babies.

Halton Roy, the company which produced the advertisement, says four British babies (aged between six months and 11 months) were used in the shots. They were immersed for a maximum of 10 seconds at a depth of only 2ft.

"We did our research very thoroughly," Amos Mansbach, the producer, insists. The babies had several practice sessions in a saltwater swimming pool, and were accompanied by a medical team.

According to Michel Odent, who pioneered water births: "At birth the newborn baby adapts to immersion like a dolphin. If he swims every day from day one, there is absolutely no danger. When a baby starts at five months on so, it can be risky if there is no training."

Safety organizations such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (Rospa), however, are not happy. Their main concern is that parents might be encouraged to copy the advertisement but the society also warns of the dangers of hypothermia — potentially lethal water intoxication caused by swallowing too much water and the baby ingesting infected water.

Yesterday British Gas endorsed the warning from the ASA that parents should not attempt to copy scenes from their advertisement: "We want to make it absolutely clear to parents with young babies that they must seek professional advice if they wish to teach their babies to swim. Parents must not attempt to submerge their babies in water."

The ASA advises all mothers to choose classes run by teachers who hold its "parent and baby certificates". Wendy Coles, the ASA spokesperson, adds that no baby should swim unless he has had his first two sets of inoculation and that he should not stay in the water for longer than 10 minutes.

JANE BIDDER



Splashing out: mother and baby at a swimming class

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Whose car is it anyway? Mick, a former cab driver who is now Adam Faith's chauffeur, waiting by the Bentley while his employer nipped off for slightly longer than planned

Please belt up in the back seat

The bond between a boss and his chauffeur can run the gamut of working relationships from mutual respect to open warfare. While many chief executives are able to relax in royal splendour, for some sitting impotently in the back seat of a car is so frustrating that they resort to some distinctly unbusinesslike behaviour. Screaming directions at their drivers, ordering them to jump red lights, leaping out in jams to move traffic cones or leaning over to honk the horn are just some of the distractions chauffeurs have to handle.

At an industrial tribunal this week chauffeur John Merkel was awarded £5,431 compensation and back pay for unfair dismissal after it was revealed that his boss, the newly-appointed general manager of a City bank, once leant forward and changed the gear of the automatic car, putting it from neutral into reverse. Mr Merkel, whose 11-year record with the bank was previously unblemished, was also once given a written warning about the way he kept hold of the steering wheel.

Jean Denton, a former director of the Rover car company, says she loved having a chauffeur, "because it saved so much time trying to find somewhere to park, although some-

times it can be a disadvantage. Noel Edmonds told me he went to a party and told his chauffeur to come back in three hours, but he hated the party and wanted to leave after half an hour. He didn't have any money with him so he and his wife had to hang around in a doorway until the chauffeur came back. You have to have them there early in case that sort of thing happens so you end up abusing them, but that is part of the job. I certainly would never tell the chauffeur how to drive the car, you have to delegate."

She says it is true that, like hairdressers, chauffeurs are privy to intimate secrets which they keep under their peaked caps: "They know everything that is going on and enjoy gossiping as much as anyone, so long as they trust you not to say where you heard it."

According to the Transport Road and Research Laboratory, if everyone who sits in the back were a seat belt there would be 9,000 fewer injuries and 150 fewer deaths every year — and a boss would not be able to lean over and interfere with his chauffeur's driving. Robert Vince of Weybridge in Surrey, who runs his own advertising agency, confesses he is a bad passenger: "I once leant over my chauffeur's shoulder and pressed the hooter because someone

A chauffeur's lot is not a happy one,

Heather Kirby reports

in front was doing something very silly," he says. "I hate not being in control, and I always seem to think he is either going too fast or too slow. I change my chauffeurs every three or four years because they get fed up."

Natural restraint, a knowledge of diplomatic etiquette and a certain amount of cunning are a few of the qualities a good chauffeur has to learn, according to Peter Perris, principal of the Rolls-Royce School of Driving Instruction at Crewe, where they have special four-day courses for chauffeurs. Seventy per cent of those who take the course are sent by companies, at a cost of £625 plus VAT and accommodation. Mr Perris says: "If the boss is late for an appointment and the chauffeur is already doing 70mph, he has to use a bit of psychology. It is his driving licence which is at stake, so he can pretend to put on a bit of speed by driving slightly more erratically, with a slightly rougher application of the brake or with a heavier use of the throttle."

"Chauffeurs have no option but to listen to conversations, but they should not absorb what they hear. They cannot answer back, which can be embarrassing. Also, it can be very embarrassing for both driver and passenger if there is repeated eye contact, so they must avoid that by moving the rear-view mirror."

When he's getting out of a car the chauffeur must not touch the paintwork, glass or chrome, even if he has gloves on, in case he leaves fingerprints. Mr Perris says: "It looks sloppy, and the one person who is bound to notice is the boss's wife. As far as helping females into the car is concerned, there are special instructions for that. He must stand upright, looking towards the back of the car, in a position where he can give help with parcels if it is needed but not so that he is able to see anything that he shouldn't."

Chauffeurs' salaries can vary from £8,000-£15,000; they rarely belong to a union, are usually over 25 because of the insurance, work unsocial hours (sometimes 17 hours daily in a seven-day week), know the best cheap restaurants, tend to get £10 or £20 tips at places such as Ascot, and are treated best by Americans and Australians, according to Mrs Marie Reed, proprietor

of a City chauffeur hire company. They also get the opportunity to run around in the company Roller at the weekend, but few of them do.

Mick, a 33-year-old former cab driver who is now Adam Faith's chauffeur, explained on the Bentley's car phone yesterday: "I could go out for the day in it but I wouldn't want to bash it. I haven't scratched it, not yet. Adam's all right to work for, he doesn't get wound up, not about the traffic anyway because there's nothing you can do about it so what's the point of getting a heart attack? If he's late, he's late. Anyway, he's got two phones to keep him busy, and a portable typewriter."

"I've been doing this job for 18 months and I like it. We do about 1,000 miles a week. I didn't know London at all, which he was pleased about because he could show me all the ways he likes to go. The salary's good, he's a nice person and the family's nice. Now and again I do little jobs for them when he doesn't need me. The worst part is not being able to plan anything. Even if he's going home early a few nights in a row, something always turns up."

"I'm sitting outside a place in the West End at the moment. He said he'd be 10 minutes. That was an hour ago."

May 28. An offshoot of the Festival for Mind, Body and Spirit — now in its fourteenth year and running concurrently in the halls — it boasts 70 exhibitors from animal activist groups to consumer product developers.

Tickets are £3.50 for adults,

£2.50 for pensioners and £1.50 for children, including a free catalogue. An entrance donation of £2 will be asked for each talk and there will be free childcare facilities on the premises. The halls are open from 10.30am until 8.30pm weekdays and 7.30pm weekends and Bank Holiday Monday. Enquiries to New Life Designs, the company which runs both exhibitions, at 170 Camden Hill Road, London W8 7AS (071-938 3788).

First show

The first Green Consumer Exhibition opens tomorrow at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Square, London SW1, and will run until Monday

company's 21 years in the business. Just dial 081-900 0041, leaving personal name tape orders (specifying woven or iron-on) and credit card details. This should clip at least two days off Pernark's normal 10 to 14-day delivery, but the postal service still operates. The price is £3.50 including post and packing for six dozen.

Time flies

Time pieces de résistance will go on display from next Tuesday until Saturday June 16 at Garrard's, the Crown jewellers. They include a macabre skull watch originally thought to have belonged to Mary Queen of Scots, the watch used to navigate the ship Discovery on its way to found Vancouver, Canada, in 1791, and examples from the private collections of great watchmakers such as Patek Philippe.

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Overall, since the mid 1950s, the earth has warmed by more than half a degree Centigrade. Many scientists predict that temperatures will increase by five and a half degrees in the next 50 years.

To put this into perspective, a drop of four degrees would take us back to the ice age. A rise of four

degrees would make the earth hotter than it has for 100,000 years.

One of the major contributors to the Greenhouse Effect is your car, as in the exhaust gases it emits.

Potentially the exhaust fumes pumped out by indiscriminate drivers threaten the existence of people who may never have even a car.

Britain's cars alone produce 100 million tonnes of fumes each year. You can cut four times its weight in exhaust fumes by next May. If you let it.

You can make a difference, simply by changing your driving habits. Share your car to and from work. Walk instead of driving short distances. Consider cycling or using

public transport. Ensure the next car you buy has a catalytic converter.

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TELEVISION

• Cabinet skeletons

FIFTY years ago this week, as France fell, another battle was raging in the War Cabinet. On one side was Churchill who stood, despite certain private doubts, for victory at all costs. On the other, his foreign secretary Halifax, who wanted a negotiated settlement with Hitler on the best available terms at the time.

That much we have long known. What Lindsay Charlton and Chris Oxley promised in their documentary *Divided We Stand (Thames)* was a more detailed account of the appeasers and how far down the road to surrender they were prepared to travel.

In the event, we were given rather less. The programme spent 30 minutes on what looked like highlights from Jeremy Isaacs' 15-year-old *World at War*. Only after the break did it reveal the existence of a Red Book listing 250 members of a secret society.

The trouble is that this book dates from 1939, before war was declared. Even 50 years later, the

programme seemed oddly unable to interview the survivors among those involved. It returned, rather, to familiar archive footage of such well-known Nazi sympathizers as the late Duke of Windsor, probably because HRH is now safely out of the reach of his libel lawyers.

Stories were told of secret appeasement concavas in Stockholm and San Francisco during 1940, but these have been turning up in war diaries for years. So have the realities of Churchill's Cabinet struggles, and the post-Dunkirk political rage of MPs such as Michael Foot.

Only in its closing moments, when the programme told of a meeting between Lady Halifax and Churchill at which she objected to her husband's exile to Washington and Sir Winston outlined the real reasons for it, did we begin to see how much more fascinating the film could have been. Technically intriguing – in its use of colour footage and a device whereby a cigarette can now be seen to smoke through a still photograph – *Divided We Stand* only suggested that, even now, the 1940 files are being insufficiently probed.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

CRITICS' CHOICE: OPERA/DANCE

OPERA

LONDON

IL TROVATORE (Verdi): Less than riveting staging by Piero Fagioli, but top cast back to full strength: Vanessi, Steblanski, Leiferkus and Randová. Sean Edwards takes baton from Edward Downes on May 29. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1068), tonight, Sat and Tues, 7.30pm, £3-£32.

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart): Lively revival by Rebecca Metcalf of original production by Jonathan Miller. Gregory Nash and Lesley Garrett are the Count's resourceful valet and his fiance, English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), tonight-Sat, 7pm, £3-£32.

CLARISMA: Robin Holloway's treatment of Richardson's novel has outraged some by its handling of rape, others by its unashamed borrowing from Wagner. Tippett et al. A serious case of rape and pillage.

ENO (as above), Fri and Tues, 7.30pm, £3-£16.

OPERA 80: Lucia di Lammermoor (Donizetti) and **The Merry Widow** (Lehar): A short run in the capital to end their nationwide tour.

Sadler's Wells, Rosemary Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8216), tonight and Fri (Lucia), Thurs, Sat and Tues (Widow); the last "signed" for the deaf, 7.30pm, £4-£16.

OUTSIDE LONDON

OPERA NORTH: Don Pasquale (Donizetti), Roger Byram and Judith Howarth lead the cast in Paisley. Messa's production for Opera North (night-Fri); **Orpheus and Eurydice** (Gluck): First conducted by Clive Timms. Sellye Surprise as the hapless musician (tomorrow, Sat).

Theatre Royal, York (0604 823688), 7.15pm, £7-£20.

THE MAGIC FLUTE: The first Mozart production in this country from America's *enfant terrible*, Peter Sellars. (review overleaf)

Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111), Tonight, Fri and Sun, 5.25pm, £20-£27.

LA BOHEME (Puccini) and **DON PASQUALE** (Donizetti): Travelling Opera's unconventional productions give the legendary citizens of Turin a chance to forge a new image for themselves.

Assembly Hall, Turin, Italy (010 363 30613), tonight (Bohème) and tomorrow (Pasquale), 7.30pm, £8-£12.

SALOME (Strauss): Subtitle, understated study of eroticism by André Engel. Cynthia Maksie as the princess with the kinky tastes. Scottish Opera, Theatre Royal, Glasgow, Hope Street (041 331 1234), tomorrow and Tues, 8pm, £5-£25.

OTELLO (Verdi): Return of Peter Stein's highly praised production for WNO, with Jeffrey Lawton and Faith Esman in the lead roles.

Welsh National Opera, New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844), Tues, 7.15pm, £3.50-£30.

BARRY MILLINGTON

DANCE

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: A triple bill from tonight until Saturday of Alston's *Dealing with Shadows* set to Mozart; a new work by choreographer Siobhan Davies to a commissioned score by Kevin Volans, and Glen Tetley's *Embrace Tiger and Return to Mountain*. Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 284988), tomorrow-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Fri, 2.30pm, £4-£10.

A MATTER OF CHANCE: New work for the Keshi acrobatic movement with words by Roger McGough. Riverfront Studios, Cress Road, London W5 (081-749 3354), Tues, 8pm (Wed, 7.30pm), £7. (No performances May 27-28). Until June 2.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Sylvie Guillem's debut as Juliet in the Royal Ballet production.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1068), Fri and Mon, 7.30pm, £1-£21.

TRITON: World première for Mayfest by Philippe Decoufle and his company

of dancers, acrobats, musicians and actors from France.

The Traverse, Glasgow (041 227 5511), Fri-Sat, 7.30pm, £5.

MOVES AFLOAT: Two nights of new dance selected by Sue MacLennan. Performers include Gregory Nash (Sat) and Julian Hamilton (Sun).

Purcell Room, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), 8pm, £5.

ECHOING OF TRUMPETS: Revival by English National Ballet of Antony Tudor's work about courage and cruelty in wartime, with Christopher Bruce's latest ballet, set to Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*.

Palace Theatre, Manchester (061 236 9222), Mon and Tues, 7.30pm, £5-£22.

LA FILLE MAL GARDEE: Ashton's romantic comedy for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet (Mon-Fri); *Triple Bill* of *The Drunken Fish*, *Porter and the Painter* and the world premiere of a new Lustig ballet (Fri, Sat, Sun).

Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752 863585), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat mat, 2.30pm, £7-£21. Until May 31.

JOHN PERCIVAL

PERFORMANCE ART

TALENTED PICTURES: *Lucky People*, 1989 Edinburgh *Pringe* first, this piece shows promise amongst younger mime work. Using rapid visual story-telling, mime and text, it looks at the rise and fall of the yuppie with comic irony.

Mortimer Wilson Centre, Grange Street, Alfreton, Derbyshire (0773 832331), Thurs, 7.30pm, £2 (E1).

EDGE 90 – NEWCASTLE: This International festival of "innovative visual arts" offers a challenging selection of installations, talks and performances. Installations include strong work by Richard Wilson and Rosalie Leverton (36), a mad maze by Australian Miles Parr and a dramatic piece by Mark Thompson.

Performances by Karen Finley (USA) (tonight, 8.30pm); Martin Spajer (Netherlands) (Fri, 2pm); Ben Patterson (USA) (Fri, 10pm); Orlan (France) (Sat, 2pm); Marina Abramovic (Yugoslavia) (Sat, 10pm). Conference: *Art and Life in the Nineties* (Fri, Sat, 10am-5pm). Installations: Mon-Fri, 12.30pm-8.30pm Hanover Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (unit Tues). For further details: 091 232 0962.

O SAY CAN YOU SEE?: An ICA season of new performances from the USA. A real chance to find out about the American performance scene with three examples of innovative text work. Writer/performer John O'Keefe uses his secret childhood memory, "Shimmer", as a means of contemporary story-telling (tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; Fri, Sat, 8.30pm). The V-Girls, known as "the bad girls of aesthetic and academic", present papers on works of art and literature with satirically sharp humour (Fri-Sun, 7.30pm). *Illegal Alien* (14/03/90 by Guillermo Gomez-Perez) gives a witty examination of Mexican/American border culture (Tues and Wed, 30pm). ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 3647), £5 (E5) plus £1 day membership.

MAYFEST AT THE THIRD EYE: CENTRE: The US also hosts the Third Eye Centre with the V-Girls (night, tomorrow, 9.30pm) and the British debut of Grouse Island Performance Group (Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm). A new, young Chicago-based collective, this is a must for those who have wondered about the influence of the incredible Wooster Group on the next generation of performers in America. Rigorous movement patterns, grueling performance tasks, autobiographical text and film tableaux all combine to examine the hypocrisy involved in morality and power structures.

Third Eye Centre, 346-354 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041 332 0522), £5 (E2.50).

THE BRIGHTON FESTIVAL AT THE ZAP: *My Act in Slow Dancing*. This strong performance duo work with 20 dancers to re-examine the desperation of the grueling dance marathons of the Depression. Clear well-thought-out processes used to make the work a success.

Zap Club, Old Ship Beach, Brighton, (0273 775987), Thurs-Sat, 8pm, £4.50 (E3.50).

GHISLAINE BODDINGTON

Painted glory by the Thames

The Courtauld Institute has found a fine home for its art treasures. George Hill reports

A blank patch in the centre of London's mental map of their city is at last about to be filled again. For generations, the name of Somerset House has scarcely implied a place at all: like the names of Whitehall and, more recently, of Marsham Street, it has almost become an abstraction, with a dreary generic implication of red tape, dusty files and institutional anonymity.

But next month, the collections of the Courtauld Institute open to the public again at their new home, in the splendid rooms in Somerset House which were built for the Royal Academy in the days of Sir Joshua Reynolds. The forgotten quadrangle between the Strand and the Thames will take its place on the map again. At least, one side of it will.

It is a disgrace how this building, which is perhaps the greatest monument of neo-classical architecture in central London, has been ignored," Dr Dennis Farr, director of the galleries, said yesterday at a preview for the press. "In Paris or Madrid, this ensemble would have been a major tourist attraction for decades. Here it is hidden behind forbidding iron gates."

The move from its former cramped quarters at the top of a groaning lift in Bloomsbury has enabled the Courtauld to fulfil its long-held ambition of bringing under one roof all its collections, its studios and laboratories. At Somerset House, there is space to show 80 per cent of the Courtauld's collections of paintings, furniture and silver.

Yesterday, the galleries were in the midst of preparations for the formal opening by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother next month. Sawdust covered the carpet and quatrefoils madonnas peered mistily out through plastic



Dr Dennis Farr, director of the Courtauld galleries, flanked by Van Gogh's "Peach blossoms in the Cray" and "Self Portrait".

wrappings. The press picked their way carefully round 16th-century majolica flagons clustered on the floor waiting for their glass case to be put up. But the success of the marriage between Sir Joshua's fine rooms and the Courtauld's fine paintings was apparently apparent. The pictures look as they have lived there all their lives.

Manet's barmaid at the Folies-Bergère gazes dreamily out in the general direction of the Pro-bate Registry, surrounded by shimmering bottles of beer and champagne, and oblivious equally to the hubbub of Parisian night-life in the 1880s and London picture-hanging in the 1990s.

Cranach's "Adam and Eve" consider whether to yield to temptation two storeys above the Strand. In a far hat beside a fireplace is Van Gogh, his ear still bandaged, looking like someone the ticket-desk might well have turned away at the door. The

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REVIEWS

Mozart's Californian trip

OPERA

Die Zauberflöte
Glyndebourne

THE most coherent message to emerge from Peter Sellars's new production of *Die Zauberflöte* is "Welcome to LA". For some weeks rumours have been coming through the Sussex bluebell woods of how Sellars and Mozart were getting on together. The curtain duly went up on Prince Tamino, a curly-haired surfer in sweat-shirt and jeans, recovering not from the ravages of Mozart's serpent but from a very bad trip.

The Three Ladies, Dames rather than *Damen* and resembling the Stargirls in their sheath skirts, bring on a flickering TV set (black and white, for this is the Los Angeles of the late Fifties) so that Tamino can glimpse his Pamina. All this takes place before a built-up photographs in garish colour of familiar Californian scenes: the neon dazzle of the freeways, the tackiness of the filling stations, the spurious elegance of the Country Club after Sarastro has entered.

The American design team of Adrienne Lobel and Dušan Ramicová has split the stage onto two levels. Above, Tamino tries to pull out of his bad trip against a background of California scenes. Below is an arched cellar where Monostatos makes his dastardly attempt on Pamina and where lurk Sarastro's hippie followers and their dutiful squaws. The space between is used for red-neon words flashed on to translate a scrap of aria or indicate where we may now be. Mid-titles, in effect. This crude device gives the Sellars game away. He has decided

DONALD COOPER
A love: Al-Lan Zhu (Pamina) and Kurt Streit (Tamino)

to dispense with all the spoken dialogue, making this by far the shortest *Flute* Glyndebourne has ever seen or is likely to see. One of the reasons, it is reported, is dissatisfaction with existing translations. But the new words are scarcely choice and often all too obvious: up comes "The Magic Flute", as Tamino is handed the instrument. Such tricks suggest that Peter Sellars has contempt for his audience and their wits, inviting them to laugh at the opera and never with it.

When the real stage problems arrive, he merely side-steps them. Tamino's charming of the forest creatures is done by simply having some children put on crude animal masks. The trials of Fire and Water have Tamino and Pamina wandering through the cellar, while another pair of television sets screen the elements. That Californian world of 30 years ago might have been tacky, but not that tacky.

There is, though, the music. Glyndebourne has assembled as good an all-round cast for this *Flute* as has been heard for some time here, and done it by drawing on singers whose names are scarcely known. That is in the very best house tradition.

Helen Kwon, with midnight blue dress and black handbag, is a dictatorial Queen of the Night, hitting her notes with blessed accuracy. It is no surprise to learn that she is off to sing the same part in Vienna, where they really know about *Zauberflöte*. Al-Lan Zhu's soprano may be getting a little heavy for Pamina, but here is another accomplished singer from the Far East who strikes the right balance between innocence and determination: she handled the G minor aria with considerable charm and musical skill.

Much of the weight falls on Kurt Streit, who has been to Glyndebourne before — as Tamino. The tenor is clean and open, with only an occasional forced note. When, in Act II, Tamino is required to strip down to a loin-cloth, Streit certainly displays the torso of a Prince, even if Sellars does not allow him to behave like one. James Maddalena is, humiliatingly, dressed down to singlet and Y-fronts by the time Papageno contemplates suicide. But he overcomes such obstacles and, with a rather raspy baritone, turns the Birdcatcher into an engaging fellow.

Mark Doss's manic Sarastro contrasted well with the Sprecher (Alastair Miles), played as a deranged guru. The Three Boys were weak. The Three Ladies were vocally strong, especially since non-stop hand-jiving was required of them, so that they began to look like the excitable tic-tac man. Channel 4 employs on its racing transmissions.

Lothar Zagrosek, after an erratic overture, settled down to a crisp, but rather too business-like account of the score and included a rarely heard exchange between Tamino and Papageno in Act II, authenticity questionable.

There were a few dissenting voices at the end, but the audience appeared to be in favour of the Sprecher's flashy *Flute*. Perhaps some were reminded of their mis-spent youth and the days when ashrams were really ashrams.

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Lo

Labour plan for new rail network

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would seek private sector finance to build big industrial infrastructure projects, including a new high-speed train network, under the party's new industrial policy to be unveiled tomorrow. One of the tasks of a new National Investment Bank, to be established under Labour, would be mobilizing private capital for publicly-led investment projects. The policy, drawn up by Mr Gordon Brown, shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, appears considerably less interventionist than that published a year ago after the first two phases of the review in the document *Meet The Challenge: Make The Change*.

The new document makes plain that the investment bank would "operate at arm's length from government and on strictly commercial lines."

Mr Brown foreshadowed the policy with a speech last night to Labour's finance and industry group at the Commons. He said that Britain needed an industrial policy that was "enable and not dirigiste, decentralist and not bureaucratic, a government working at industry's side and not on their backs."

He promised that Labour's commitment to joint ventures between public and private sectors was important to bridging the acknowledged investment gap in long-term funding. Britain invested only £2 for every £3 that French and German employers invested per employee, and overall Britain, even with North Sea oil, had invested a lower share of its national income in its future than any competitor country.

Setting out measures to tackle the "short-termism that bedevils British industry", Mr Brown promised the development of joint ventures between public and private sectors, encouragement for regional development agencies to work with venture capital funds from the private sector, and consideration of the issuing of regional development bonds to attract industrial investment. Powers of the Department of Trade and Industry would be transferred from Whitehall to the regions.

The policy document says that Labour would want a "high-speed dedicated railway network together with good roads to link the regions to the rest of Europe through the Channel Tunnel."

Mr Brown said the policy was intended to help bridge the technology gap, the training gap, the long-term investment gap and the regional gap.

Martin Jacques, page 12



Police examining the green Ford Cortina in which a number of weapons were found yesterday. Below, the Peugeot spotted in a West London car park



Currie steals show with egg story

Continued from page 1
negative, which is impossible," the former junior Health Minister countered as her questioners gave examples of alleged vote-rigging and other malpractices reported by observers from many other countries.

"We cannot prove that there were no problems. But our criterion was: Did they overcome them in a responsible way? The answer was a resounding 'yes,'" she replied.

Her opponents cited such examples as the giving of unwanted "advice" by Front

officials, the alleged stuffing of ballot boxes and the use of wrong registration lists. They were disarmed when informed that things were much worse in Mrs Currie's constituency of Derbyshire South.

A Finnish journalist who attempted to score a critical point was so effectively rebuffed that he had to fall back on his Romanian translator to ask a follow-up question.

"Most people told us: 'No, of course we were not intimidated,'" Mrs Currie said. "Voters were not looking over their shoulders. We found

injected with anti-rabies vaccine and strewn on the ground over the vast areas of the country where he had excluded hunting rights, so that any animal which might bite him would be inoculated against the disease.

"Near the town of Snagov, we were told that 300,000 such treated eggs were laid out every three months, or 1.2 million every year", Mrs Currie said. "It is incredible, but also horrific when you think that at the time, the Romanian people were struggling to get enough food to live on."

Israeli troops alert for new war

From RICHARD OWEN JERUSALEM

WITH President Mubarak of Egypt warning of a new and bloody Arab-Israeli confrontation, Israeli troops were yesterday put on alert to operate for the first time within Israel's own borders to crush a growing rebellion among Israel's own 650,000 Arabs.

In stormy scenes in the Knesset (parliament) Israeli-Arab MPs accused the ruling Likud party of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, of being "racist murderers". Mr Shamir retorted that Israeli Jews were having to defend themselves against an upsurge of Palestinian violence during the past three days. Mr Ehud Olmert, the Israeli Minister for Arab Affairs, said Israeli Arabs had "crossed the borderline of the permissible".

Yesterday, despite curfews and security measures, sporadic violence continued in the occupied territories, in Israel itself and among Palestinians in neighbouring Jordan. The death toll rose to 21 since last Sunday's murder of seven Arab workers by a deranged Israeli Jew.

At a meeting of the Socialist International in Cairo, President Mubarak bitterly charged the Israelis with obstructing peace and said the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel "threatens to... put the whole region on the verge of a new, bloody confrontation".

Mubarak warning, page 11
Leading article, page 13

Political sketch A tour of some monumental MPs

LEADING politicians will assist in the launch of a balloon tomorrow. The balloon is to encourage use of organ donor cards. What the politicians are for, you may like to guess. It is a hot-air balloon...

...And the prospects for tourism in the West Midlands are exciting. Would my hon friend (Patrick Nichols) accompany me on a trip around the Black Country, where I can show him some of these attractions?

Maureen Hicks (C. Wolverhampton NE) must be a desperate woman. MPs who have seen *Blind Date* on television will know that contestants choose their "date" from volunteers invisible to them, behind a screen. The couple then open an unmarked envelope on which is written the nature of the trip they are to take in each other's company.

So female contestants face two nasty shocks: the man, and the holiday. But even malicious viewers would not inflict Patrick Nichols and a day-trip to the Black Country on one girl. And Maureen Hicks was asking for this.

Mr Nichols, who is a junior Employment minister, looked perplexed. He is the sort of boy that mothers encourage daughters to get to know: clean-looking and slightly churchy, with glasses. But Nichols is not uncouth, and (after a moment's panicky hesitation) conceded that it would be "churlish" to refuse.

Where will Maureen and Patrick go? Surely the West Midlands' finest monuments are the employment problems of the disabled.

Andy Stewart (C. Sherwood) wanted a "British National Forest" at Sherwood. This gave Patrick Nichols the opportunity for a joke about Robin Hood. Michael Howard, the smooth yet faintly menacing Employment Secretary, offered a passable Sheriff of Nottingham.

It was soon afterwards that Mrs Thatcher swept in, dressed all in Lincoln green. I do not recall that Maid Marion wore pearls.

MATTHEW PARTRIDGE

Reward for recruiters

By DAVID YOUNG

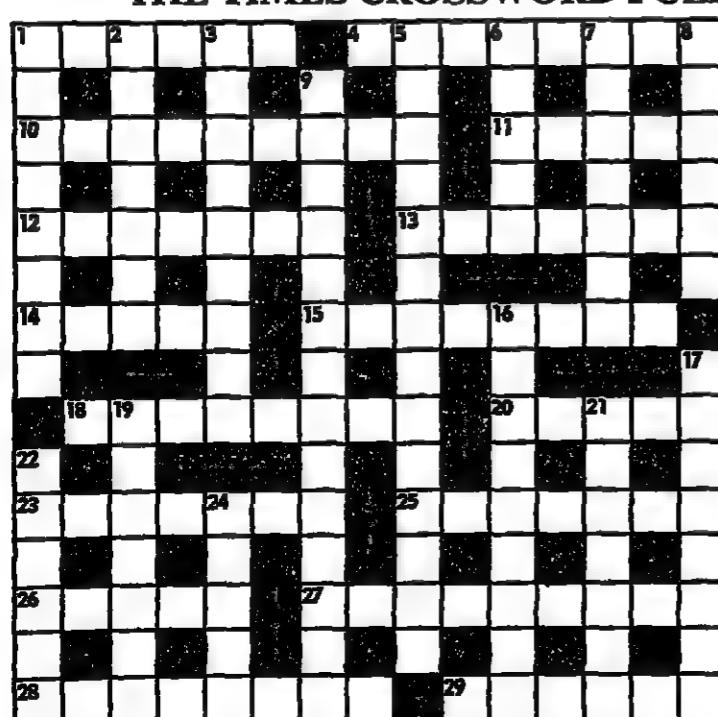
IT WAS once said that in every soldier's knapsack there was a marshal's baton. Now soldiers are being given the chance to become recruiting sergeants with a reward of a month's leave and £100 for every man they persuade to accept the Queen's shilling.

The scheme has been in-

duced in the 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment by its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Barrett, so that battalion strength can be maintained.

Already four soldiers have been awarded cash and leave for persuading friends or relatives to sign on.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,301



ACROSS
1 Mesmerised girl felt superior to a man (6).
4 Po becomes radioactive in its full length (8).
10 Endless instances where reform is needed (9).
11 Dad's Army members going in - that's awful (5).
12 Gang, and its members? (7).
13 Sketch from the boundary (7).
14 Secret police inspector, some say (5).
15 Hungarian chess master had a little money reserved (8).
18 About to take pastis from spoon (8).
20 Correspond with the Sea-Green Revolutionary? Not much (5).
23 Galileo, for example, is explosive - reducting calculator (7).
25 Play this complex character words for the audience (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,300

PUZZLE
A B A L I V E R A
P O T E N T I A T E E L E C T I N
Y I D I R E D
R U N I C R U B I T A N I A
I U U V E D
S E L F P O E G E S S I O N
O F Y U P A
T H U R S D A Y S C H I L D
O N H C E E C
S P A G H E T T I R A T E L
C H J T I
O R M E R A N A R C H I S T
F E E X T I A N H
E N D O R S E E C L O C H U

Concise crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

GAMPHION

a. A negatively charged ion
b. A natural benthos
c. A fat-head

PURLICUE

a. A sailor's pigtail
b. A perforation
c. A fruity swag in moulding

PROLEPSIS

a. The long jump
b. An anticipatory epithet
c. A defensive attitude

TAISCH

a. A domine's whip
b. A dying apparition
c. Command to be quiet

Answers on page 20

The Guinness trial

Crown case ends after 53 days of evidence

THE Crown's case against four defendants accused of offences in the Guinness takeover of Distillers closed yesterday, 56 days into the trial.

The jury of eight men and four women have sat through 53 days of evidence and have heard from 50 people called by the prosecution to give evidence from the witness-box in Courtroom No 2 at Southwark Crown Court.

Yesterday, the jurors were told that, because of legal submissions, they need not return to the hearing until 10am on Monday, June 4, when the defence case is expected to begin.

On trial are Ernest Saunders, aged 54, the former Guinness chief executive; Gerald Ronson, aged 50, head of Heron Corporation; Anthony Parnes, aged 44, a stockbroker; and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, a financier. They variously deny 24 charges, including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

It is alleged, by the prosecution, that an illegal share support operation was mounted to ensure that a £2.7 billion bid by Guinness for Distillers in 1986 beat the offer of the brewing group's rival bidder, Argyll.

Supporters recruited to support Guinness were paid in-



Saunders: denies charges over Guinness takeover

demitties and success fees, the prosecution claims.

The jury has been told that Mr Olivier Roux, the former Guinness finance director, wrote to the company's solicitors alleging impropriety and implicating himself and Mr Saunders after a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry began into the takeover.

An internal investigation by solicitors later identified "areas of concern" including £25 million payments to cover losses on investments and success fees, it has been alleged.

The defendants deny knowingly being concerned in any illegal transactions relating to the bid.

Mr John Chadwick, QC,

leading the prosecution team, brought the Crown's case to a close at about noon yesterday, commenting that it was the 14th week of the trial.

Earlier, Mrs Barbara Mills, QC, number two in the prosecution team, referred the jury to the brightly coloured loose-leaf binders that they share, one between two, known in the case as "The Rainbow File." Although the jurors have already seen hundreds of pages of documents involved in the case, she pointed out a number of prepared papers intended to help them.

The papers included a list of advisers used by Guinness during the "titanic struggle" for Distillers — the merchant banks, management consultants, solicitors, brokers and company auditors.

Other pages were graphs showing the changes of Argyll and Guinness share prices during the takeover battle, letters appealing to Distillers shareholders to accept the Guinness offer, and press releases issued when the bid went unconditional.

Mr Justice Henry told the jurors that he believed that they would probably prefer to have a set date to return after the legal submissions, and told them to come back on June 4.

The trial continues today.

New tune at Chesterfield



Roger Wingate: soaring asset-value gains of the past two years "consolidated"

THE dramatic rise in net asset values has come to an end at Chesterfield Properties (Matthew Bond way).

In the year to December net assets per share rose by only 5.3 per cent. In the previous two years increases were 41 per cent and 64 per cent.

Mr Roger Wingate, managing director, said: "Although the increase in net asset value was modest, I am grateful that the significant gains of the last

two years have been consolidated against the background of a deteriorating property market."

What increase in value there had been, said Mr Wingate, was due to just one West End office block.

At all other properties any increase in rent had been countered by an increase in the yield at which the property was valued. Net assets per share stand at 1,434p. Pre-tax

profits rose by 13.5 per cent to £1.21 million, helped by a 63 per cent increase in rental income to £24.3 million.

More than trebled to £10 million. A further £13.4 million has been capitalized against the value of the group's developments.

A final dividend of 11.1p (10p) a share gives a total of 17.6p. The shares shed 5p to 745p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP
'Nothing sinister' in Diamond Group delay

DIAMOND Group Holdings, the mechanical breakdown insurance company whose newly-quoted shares were suspended last October when it failed to report interim results, is unlikely to publish those results before mid-July. Mr Michael Housely, who took over as chief executive following the resignation of Mr Derek Diamond last month, said it had taken longer than expected to prepare the accounts for audit, but that there was "nothing sinister" in the delay. Shareholders would be given a full explanation of the difficulties.

Mr Housely said current trading was "going very well." It is understood that Diamond will report losses of between £1 million and £2 million. Diamond shares, placed on the USM at 85p a year ago, were suspended at 65p. Mr Housely said he was prepared to meet "any shareholder" who asks for an explanation.

Scott's goes into profit

SCOTT'S Restaurant, the restaurant operator, made pre-tax profits of £593,000 in the year to end-December, against a £419,000 loss. The trading performance was helped by turnover 8.8 per cent ahead, at £6.77 million, and 1988's disposal of the loss-making Mirabelle Restaurant. Earnings per share are 5.65p (5.05p), the final is 8.3p (7.425p). Effective net assets per share, excluding film rights, rose to 795.4p (580.7p).

Platon back in black

PLATON International, the instrumentation group, is back in the black with a pre-tax profit of £408,000 in the year to end-March, compared with a £261,000 loss. Earnings per share are 5.7p (13.2p loss). Again there is no dividend.

The group, which has disposed of its troubled electronics businesses, has been solely involved in instrumentation with turnover in this field increasing by 24.5 per cent to £5.18 million (£5.63 million). Exports have increased by 15.4 per cent. The company has reduced administrative expenses by 17 per cent to £1.21 million. Gearing stood at 68 per cent (140 per cent). There was an extraordinary loss of £60,000.

Setback for Mecca chief's salary rises

AMID difficult trading conditions in the motor trade, Frank G Gates, the London Ford main dealer, saw pre-tax profits slip from £2.28 million to £1.95 million in the year to end-December. Group turnover edged up by 5 per cent to £82.9 million. Eps fell from 6.83p to 5.34p, but the final dividend remains 2.75p, after adjustment for last year's scrip issue.

Aspinall buys club

MR JOHN Aspinall, the former casino chief turned animal lover, is returning to the London gaming scene where he first made his name with the purchase for an undisclosed sum from the administrative receivers of Aspinall Curzon of part of the casino's assets and the White Elephant Club.

Aspinall Curzon is part of Leisure Investments, the crashed leisure empire once run by Mr Stephen Forsyth which was bought by Courtwell, formerly known as Bear Brand, this year. The Aspinall Curzon Club itself was formerly run by Mr Aspinall before he sold it to Mr Peter de Savary's Landseure, subsequently itself swallowed up by LL

Fisons chief goes on defensive in peat campaign

By OUR CITY STAFF

A CAMPAIGN to influence institutional investors over threats to nature in peatlands led Fisons, Britain's biggest extractor of lowland peat, to make a statement at its annual meeting to defend its activities.

Mr John Kerridge, chairman and chief executive of the pharmaceuticals, instruments and horticulture group, said Fisons used peat in its products only where there was no substitute.

He said 90 per cent of the peat extracted by Fisons was used to produce composts and growing media.

"There is no suitable viable alternative currently available for this purpose," he argued, although Fisons had substituted other materials where possible — as in its lawn fertilizers — and was funding research.

He added that Fisons devoted 10 per cent of its 9,000 acres of Britain's 75,000 acres of lowland peatlands, to na-

ture reserves and made efforts to aid regeneration after extraction.

The Peatlands Campaign, led by Friends of the Earth, has campaigned with Pensions Investment Research Consultants to persuade institutions to press for peat-cutting to be stopped on land designated as of interest to nature conservation.

It claimed that 90 per cent of Fisons' operations were on sites of special scientific interest.

On group prospects, Mr Kerridge said the economic situation had not affected its performance in the first few months of the year.

"We have set ourselves some relatively demanding and indeed ambitious growth targets for 1990, and I can tell you that in the first four months of the year, we are in all cases achieving, and in a number of instances comfortably exceeding, these demand goals," he added.

Chemicals group sacks 40 as Soviet bills crisis deepens

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE crisis surrounding the Soviet Union's foreign currency drain intensified as yet another international chemical company announced that substantial bills had not been paid.

Akzo, the Dutch chemical group, claimed that it is owed "several dozens of millions of guilders" worth of unpaid bills.

It said that it had been forced to sack 40 workers in its carpet yarn division as a direct consequence of the problems with the Soviet Union, the division's largest customer.

Akzo is the latest chemical group to have fallen foul of recent Soviet trade practices, although until the end of last year the Soviet Union had been regarded as one of the most reliable debtors in the world.

Other chemical companies, including BASF and Hoechst,

of West Germany, have reported similar problems.

The worsening of the situation has led officials in the West Germany economics ministry to believe that the problems could lead to a severe setback in East-West trade.

In West Germany, where the problems have been greatest, some small- and medium-sized companies have already cut trading links with the Soviet Union.

The cause of the problems lies in a shortage of foreign currency reserves and in a restructuring of the Soviet Union's foreign trade regulations.

The restructuring involved the abolition of foreign trade associations and the introduction of rules allowing imports and exports no longer to balance globally but on a sector basis.

...offers the biggest opportunities

The UK's biggest new urban development project offers the biggest opportunities to investors, developers and new industry. High quality factory units and greenfield sites now available. Over a million square feet of prestige industrial and commercial premises under construction or being planned. Specialised accommodation on technology and business parks. Participation and business opportunities in Teesside Development Corporation flagship initiatives: Teesdale — a £200M rejuvenation of 250 acres as a high quality office, home, retail and leisure mix.

Hartlepool — provision of residential, leisure and business amenities and maritime-related enterprise at the new marina complex. Teesside Park — specialist retail outlets at the old Stockton racecourse, now being developed together with the UK's largest leisure centre. Teesside opportunities — backed by Development Area grants and Enterprise Zone incentives. To find out more contact Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel 0642 230636. FAX 0642 230843.



TEES/SIDE
Initiative Talent Ability

JNDUP
ter in
up del
mechanical break
ed shares were
ept interim re
re mid-July. Mr M
cutive following
month, said it had
accounts for an
the delay. Share
as "going very
orn losses of be
areas placed on the
65p. Mr. House, a
older" who saidI say, I say, what is the
difference between an investment
and a subsidy?I don't know, what is the
difference between an investment
and a subsidy?If a company is going bankrupt
and the state puts in money,
that is aid; if it is doing well and
the state invests capital, that isThat is really no joke. It is a
curious statement from Sir Leon Brittan, the competition com
missioner, to support settlement of
the long-running saga of
Renault and the aid it received
from the French government. There is a superficial logic in the
statement, but it falls apart
under examination. A company
can be doing remarkably well
but still be given aid. Aid for a
special project. Launch aid for a
new aircraft or engine. Aid for
expansion into new plant. And
so on.At the other end of the
equation, we find equally non
conformist situations. Invest
ment can be made in start-up
ventures which might fail without
government help, but which
stand to pay off handsomely if
they can be brought successfully
to market. Private investors are
every day putting money into
loss-makers in the hope of
turning a modest stake into a
major windfall.In other words, the distinction
drawn is bogus, or at the very
least open to endless argument
about its interpretation.But in the Renault decision,
there was one vista of sparkling
clarity. The Competition Com
missioner is prepared to do
deals, to compromise with poli
cicians, to accept that which can
be obtained by negotiation
rather than that which is nec
essarily right or within the rules.Renault has got away with
returning substantially less thanthe EC believed should be
repaid, and is even then paying
only a proportion in cash. Theimplications for Rover in the
£38 million "sweeteners" affair
will not be overlooked. A neat
£30 million in a plain brown
envelope should do nicely.The willingness of the Com
missioner to do deals, albeit
after a lengthy period of stand
off during which, according to
one particularly flowery French
interpretation, the two sides
showed their teeth in a grimace
that has turned into a smile, also
has implications for the manner
in which competition policy
might be run from Brussels. At
present, the most senior compet
ition bodies operated by EC
countries, the Office of Fair
Trading and Monopolies Com
mission in Britain and the
Federal Cartel Office in Germany, are fiercely independent
of politics. Admittedly, any
MMC recommendation can be
over-ruled by the Secretary of
State for Trade, but its conclu
sions and recommendations are
its own, untainted, view. The
same applies to Germany. It
would be a great shame if that
impartiality is lost.

Nigel's turn?

Now that London is to be the

home of the new European

Bank for Reconstruction

and Development, the next target

for British infiltration could be the

International Monetary Fund. Al
though the present managing

director, Michel Camdessus, is not

due to complete his five-year term

until December next year,

speculation is growing that he will

not serve a further term.

Talk in the upper echelons of

the Fund is already centring on the

ample figure of Nigel Lawson as a

possible successor. By tradition,

the president of the World Bank is

always an American while the

managing director of the IMF is a

European.

Britain has never had an official

in a top international post just as it

has never hosted a major interna
tional financial institution. By

contrast, M Camdessus is the

third Frenchman to have served as

IMF managing director following

Pierre-Paul Schweitzer and

Jacques de Larozière. A Frenchman,

Jacques Delors, also heads the EC

Commission; another, Jean-Claude

Paye, the Organisation for Economic

Co-operation and Development; and a third,

Jacques Attali, has been named

head of the EBRD. The other

managing directors of the Fund

have been a Belgian, Swedes (two)

and a Dutchman. The last should

give the Netherlands some modest

recompense for losing out in the

EBRD scramble.

Sir Geoffrey Howe was ap
proached for the post of IMF

managing director when it last

became vacant in 1986 but ex
pressed no interest. He was at thattime Foreign Secretary and pre
sumably retained domestic politi
cal ambitions.

Mr Lawson would certainly

bring a new liveliness to the IMF

and could be counted on to raise

its profile. The acid remarks

which he has directed at Fund

staff seem unlikely to be held

against him. The question is

whether he would receive suf
ficient support in the political

horse-trading. He does not appear

to have taken any more trouble to

build a constituency among Fund

members than he did with Con
servative back-benchers.

Final decisions on a successor

to M Camdessus will be taken next

year in the executive committee of

the IMF. On paper form, this will be

preceded by intensive diplomacy,

during which the successful can
didate will mysteriously emerge

rather as a new Pope is elected.

Accommodating competition in Brussels

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

implications for Rover in the £38 million "sweeteners" affair will not be overlooked. A neat £30 million in a plain brown envelope should do nicely.

The willingness of the Com
missioner to do deals, albeit

after a lengthy period of stand
off during which, according to

one particularly flowery French
interpretation, the two sides

showed their teeth in a grimace
that has turned into a smile, also

has implications for the manner

in which competition policy
might be run from Brussels. At

present, the most senior compet
ition bodies operated by EC

countries, the Office of Fair

Trading and Monopolies Com
mission in Britain and the

Federal Cartel Office in Ger

many, are fiercely independent

of politics. Admittedly, any

MMC recommendation can be

over-ruled by the Secretary of

State for Trade, but its conclu
sions and recommendations are

its own, untainted, view. The

same applies to Germany. It

would be a great shame if that

impartiality is lost.

Nigel's turn?

Now that London is to be the

home of the new European

Bank for Reconstruction

and Development, the next target

for British infiltration could be the

International Monetary Fund. Al
though the present managing

director, Michel Camdessus, is not

due to complete his five-year term

until December next year,

speculation is growing that he will

not serve a further term.

Talk in the upper echelons of

the Fund is already centring on the

ample figure of Nigel Lawson as a

possible successor. By tradition,

the president of the World Bank is

always an American while the

managing director of the IMF is a

European.

Britain has never had an official

in a top international post just as it

has never hosted a major interna
tional financial institution. By

contrast, M Camdessus is the

third Frenchman to have served as

IMF managing director following

Pierre-Paul Schweitzer and

Jacques de Larozière. A Frenchman,

Jacques Delors, also heads the EC

Commission; another, Jean-Claude

Paye, the Organisation for Economic

Co-operation and Development; and a third,

Jacques Attali, has been named

head of the EBRD. The other

managing directors of the Fund

have been a Belgian, Swedes (two)

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Final decisions on a successor

Redwood says Euro bank will boost opportunities for the City

UK 'trailblazing in Eastern bloc'

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH business is "trailblazing" in Eastern Europe, and the arrival of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London should provide great new openings for the City, Mr John Redwood, the Corporate Affairs Minister, said yesterday.

Speaking at a joint government-industry conference at the Confederation of British Industry headquarters, he said London is capable of becoming the main capital-raising and project-designing market for the new democracies.

"The business opportunities are substantial... here in London we have the legal, accountancy and business skills that Eastern Europe needs. We should now mar-

shal these for the rebuilding of the emerging enterprise economies." The Export Credits Guarantee Department is currently considering applications from British companies in excess of £2 billion on Eastern European business.

Mr Redwood, who has travelled widely in Eastern Europe this year, cited the Ganz-Hunslet railway joint venture in Hungary, ICL and Digital in Poland, and British accountancy firms in both countries, as evidence of British trailblazing.

In Hungary, he said only West Germany and Austria among Britain's European counterparts have concluded substantially more joint ventures. In Poland, Britain is

found West Germany's current preoccupation with East Germany could provide British companies with a chance to develop business in other parts of Eastern Europe, said Mr Chris Shute, commercial secretary at the British Embassy in Warsaw.

He added that in Poland it appears the prospects for the West Germans saw in East Germany had "taken the heat off" the Polish market for the time being. Personal observation indicated there are now fewer West German businessmen in Poland compared with recent times, he said.

"This may only be a temporary phase, but could offer a window of opportunity to British firms who previously

"It is a time of great change and uncertainty throughout Eastern Europe. It is therefore

important for companies to consider risks when considering investing or exporting to Eastern Europe," he said.

Mr Redwood said that Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia had moved rapidly towards meeting the pre-conditions on open Western-style economies, in most respects, while East Germany would become part of the Western system after German Monetary Union in July.

Mr David Cooper, head of project division 5 of the ECGD, injected a tone of caution, reflecting growing international concern about the ability of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to make hard currency payments.

"It is a time of great change and uncertainty throughout Eastern Europe. It is therefore

De Beers attacks plan to divide linked shares

A SCHEME, backed in South Africa and London, to trade separately the two "linked" parts of De Beers is being opposed by brokers.

De Beers intends to split its South African and non-South African assets into two companies on June 11, and will set up a Swiss-based company, De Beers Centenary, to hold its non-South African assets.

De Beers, which has said that shares in the two companies

will be "stapled" and tradeable only as one unit, has registered "disapproval" of the brokers' idea with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Brokers in South Africa, with London advice, have been devising a scheme for the two investment vehicles to be traded separately. Johannesburg brokers say that the scheme needs financial backing if it is to proceed. A final decision will be taken today.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Code	Oct 90	Oct 90	Price	Price	Series	Code	Price	
Alco Lyon	420	80	72	83	4	7	10	PBO	801	7882442
	450	80	24	25	21	45		810	2445541	
ASDA	120	9	22	23	7	7	10	PTB	801	2374949
	110	7	11	15	7	9	11		810	2374949
Bass	550	117	150	167	5	12	16	Poly Pack	200	7112
	500	75	120	130	5	12	20		220	5102
Becta	240	46	52	57	17	25	25	Polymer	420	38526
	240	28	34	41	3	6	30		460	4851
Bell At	200	11	21	21	11	11	35	Prudential	160	4851
	200	11	19	15	15	15	40		220	35
Bell Cos	50	1	1	1	1	1	45	Recal	200	21
	50	1	1	1	1	1	50		210	11
BP	300	34	42	50	21	25	55	RTZ	200	520
	300	35	35	35	25	25	60		500	64
Brit Steel	120	18	18	18	18	18	65	RTZ	200	520
	120	85	105	125	18	18	70		500	12
B & W	550	85	100	117	10	10	75	Shaw	200	11
	550	85	100	117	10	10	80		200	11
Cam Lynton	450	43	55	74	12	12	85	Thomas Wh	120	27
	450	43	55	74	12	12	90		120	27
Carrickfergus	320	23	24	24	15	15	95	Wor Package	120	180
	320	23	24	24	15	15	100		120	180
CAH	350	37	7	7	4	4	105		120	180
	350	37	7	7	4	4	110		120	180
Grand Met	420	42	52	56	24	24	115		120	180
	420	42	52	56	24	24	120		120	180
ICL	1100	117	132	173	15	15	125		120	180
	1100	117	132	173	15	15	130		120	180
Kingsferry	320	20	20	25	15	15	135		120	180
	320	20	20	25	15	15	140		120	180
Luton Bros	310	24	24	24	15	15	145		120	180
	310	24	24	24	15	15	150		120	180
Land Rec	220	22	24	24	15	15	155		120	180
	220	22	24	24	15	15	160		120	180
M & S	220	22	22	22	15	15	165		120	180
	220	22	22	22	15	15	170		120	180
STE	220	20	20	20	15	15	175		120	180
	220	20	20	20	15	15	180		120	180
Sabretooth	200	11	24	41	35	35	185		120	180
	200	11	24	41	35	35	190		120	180
Sheld	420	60	72	88	15	15	195		120	180
	420	60	72	88	15	15	200		120	180
Sheld Bros	450	110	124	124	2	2	205		120	180
	450	110	124	124	2	2	210		120	180
Shoreham	100	15	20	20	15	15	215		120	180
	100	15	20	20	15	15	220		120	180
Tattinger	300	35	37	37	18	18	225		120	180
	300	35	37	37	18	18	230		120	180
Unilever	300	11	25	28	22	22	235		120	180
	300	11	25	28	22	22	240		120	180
Unilever	700	17416	20200	20300	77	77	245		120	180
	700	17416	20200	20300	77	77	250		120	180
Unilever	300	21	21	21	10	10	255		120	180
	300	21	21	21	10	10	260		120	180
US Steel	200	21	21	21	17	17	265		120	180
	200	21	21	21	17	17	270		120	180
Walt Disney	200	11	21	21	17	17	275		120	180
	200	11	21	21	17	17	280		120	180
Walt Disney	200	11	21	21	17	17	285		120	180
	200	11	21	21	17	17	290		120	180
Walt Disney	200	11	21	21	17	17	295		120	180
	200	11	21	21	17	17	300		120	180
Walt Disney	200	11	21	21	17	17	305		120	180
	200	11	21	21	17	17	310		120	180
Walt Disney	200	11	21	21	17	17	315		120	180
	200	11	21	21	17	17	320		120	180
Walt Disney	200	11	21	21	17	17	325		120	180
	200	11	21	21	17	17	330		120	180
Walt Disney	200	11	21	21	17	17	335		120	180
	200	11	21	21	17	17	340		120	180
Walt Disney	200	11	21	21	17	17	345		120	180
	200	11	21	21	17	17	350		120	180
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You should be able to prioritise your workload in an often hectic environment as well as supervise two other secretaries. Good secretarial skills, including word processing are essential coupled with a pleasant, confident telephone manner, as you will be liaising with a wide variety of UK and overseas contacts with whom the office deals.

For further information and application form, please contact the Recruitment Officer, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX, or telephone Patricia on 071-242 0200 ext 3367 quoting reference 136/R.

Smoking is actively discouraged.

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The position offers a real career opportunity for an ambitious person. You must be fully bilingual in English and Spanish, both written and spoken, and have a knowledge of word processing and computers. A current driving licence would be useful.

You will be responsible for the organization and administration of the office but there will be extensive contact with the public so smart appearance and a good sense of humour are essential.

Interested candidates should send their CV in English and Spanish detailing experience and present salary, together with a recent photograph, to Box N177, 142 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TR or c/o PKF, Serrano 120, 3rd Floor Derecha, 28006 Madrid, Spain.

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We are also looking for an experienced Secretary to work for the Managing Director of Markforce Associates, Interbrand's trade mark legal practice. The ideal candidate must work well under pressure and have excellent WP and audio skills (knowledge of Apple Mac/Microsoft Word an advantage).

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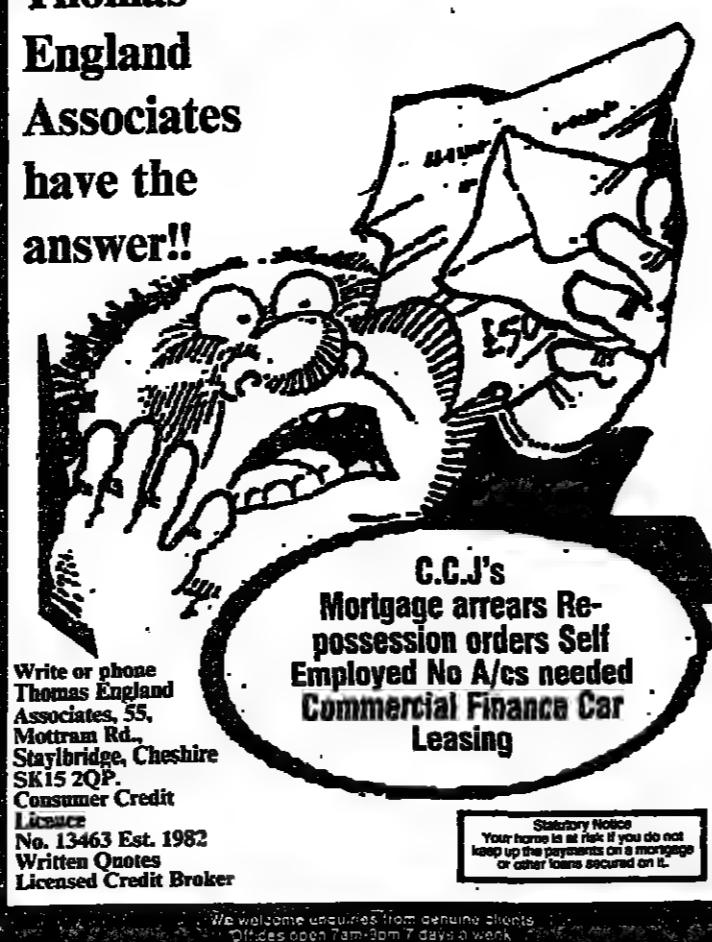
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ST JAMES'S PARK SW1

REPOSSESSION FLAT

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Edited by Christopher Warman
Property CorrespondentBuy a slice of luxury
or opt for timeshare

Now that Britain is set to join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, UK house builders with massive investments in Spain are hoping the pound will rally against the peseta, which is at its weakest point, with about 168 pesetas to the pound — for more than a decade.

Sales have slumped to an all-time low along the Spanish coast as British interest rates continue to bite and property sales in the UK, particularly in the south, are virtually at a standstill.

But companies which include Buxton Homes, Taylor Woodrow and McInerney, believe there is a segment of the UK market which will invest in Spain, provided the price is right.

Buxton Homes is building its first overseas project, Gulf Royal, through its Spanish subsidiary Buxton España SA, alongside the 18-hole golf course at Pals on the Costa Brava. There will be 45 apartments on the two-acre site and the first phase of 19 are ready for occupation. The show flat is open and the rest are due for phased completion during the next two years.

The Costa Brava is gaining in popularity, not least because the Olympic torch is due to land at Ampurias, a Greco-Roman settlement just north of the fishing village of La Escala, to herald the start of the 1992 Olympic Games.

Companies believe a segment of the UK market will invest in Spain, provided the price is right, reports Diana Wildman

The agent, IPI, of Brighton, under the auspices of Howard Taylor, is marketing Goff Royal where two, three and four-bedroom units cost from £70,000, £88,000 and £122,000 respectively. There is a large swimming pool and the entrance to Pals golf course is 100 metres away. IPI can arrange a furnishing package to rental standards from about £3,000.

IPI is also selling the remaining units at adjacent Green Park Club, which consists of 60 apartments in five elegant modern blocks, all overlooking a central garden with fountains. There are three two-bedroom houses and prices start at £120,000. Green Park is ideal for the semi-retired golfer keen to establish a base in Spain.

IPI offers a financial package whereby 60 per cent of the purchase price is paid on completion, with the 40 per cent balance repaid over three years with an interest rate of 5 per cent per

annum. Details: IPI, 34, Ship Street, Brighton BN1 1AD. Tel: 0273 774096.

Taylor Woodrow International embarked on its first Spanish project two years ago after the successful completion in Gibraltar of its Cornwall Centre, a mix of commercial and residential units. Los Castillos is situated on the edge of the Duquesa golf course on the Costa del Sol, some 20 miles from Gibraltar.

Taylor Woodrow's aim is to build houses for eventual permanent living. To this end, the apartments, of which there are 48 completed in the first phase and a further 42 under construction, are spacious and well finished, with air-conditioning, central heating, marble flooring and carpets in the bedroom. Puerto de la Duquesa has a leisure marina, shops and restaurants overlooking the Duquesa golf course.

David Maddams, managing director of Taylor Woodrow España, says: "We have 13 two-bedroom apartments still for sale in our first phase at prices ranging from £105,000 to £133,000, and our second phase will be completed during this autumn when golf course front-line three-bedroom houses will cost from £230,000. The clubhouse has a range of facilities, including four squash courts, two swimming pools, a gym, saunas and restaurants. We have two pools at Los Castillos."



Spain: Los Castillos development at Duquesa

Artist's impression: Los Castillos development at Duquesa

reputable firms, and in Europe these include Barratt, Wimpey and McInerney, can be a good compromise between whole ownership and annual rental schemes.

McInerney plc, one of the UK's leading housebuilders, has sold out its first Four Seasons development in Portugal's Algarve and is now investing in southern Spain. Two years ago McInerney bought 27 two and three-bedroom apartments and land with building permission to construct a further 36 units at Las Golondrinas, adjacent to the Don Carlos Hotel, eight miles east of Marbella.

The company has totally up-dated and furnished the 27 apartments, most of which are now sold. It is selling the remainder as timeshare in blocks of two or four weeks. These are being sold in four time bands with purchasers at liberty to book dates of their choosing up to 11 months in advance rather than acquiring fixed weeks. Prices range from £7,800 for two weeks in November or February in a two-bedroom unit, to £17,500 for a high-season fortnight in a three-bedroom apartment.

The apartments are fully equipped down to the last knife and fork and there is satellite TV and a music centre as standard. Facilities include swimming pools and the amenities of Don Carlos — including an 11-court tennis centre and a beach club. A £2.25 million leisure centre incorporating squash courts, a gymnasium, golf simulator and restaurant is planned to open in the summer. Until then, owners at Four Seasons can play golf, free of charge, at the Mijas golf course some 20 minutes' drive away.

Completion is 28 new two-bedroom apartments which comprise phase three. Prices here range from £9,190 for two weeks in low season to £20,540 for a two-week period in July and August.

Details: Four Seasons Resorts Ltd, 43, Harwood Road, London SW6 4QP. Tel: 071 736 4104.

Anyone considering buying a holiday home in Spain, be it whole ownership or timeshare, should consult a lawyer specializing in Spanish property law. It is essential to ensure the land being built on has the necessary planning permissions so that the purchaser can obtain title deeds for the property acquired.

LONDON PROPERTY

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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A CALL for property investors to build up their property portfolios, despite present difficulties, comes from Legal & General Property, part of the Legal & General Group. "Property yields," the company says, "are at their highest level since 1975 and there are attractive deals around."

"Canny" investors, says Legal & General, can build their portfolios ahead of the next upward movement in the cycle. "This will be property's most painful year," the company adds. "Once past, the economy's underlying strength and continuing foreign investment interest will ensure property continues to show returns in double figures."

Richard Jessop, development director, suggests that well-located industrial sites will be in favour during the early part of the decade, but demand will fall later because of the UK's ever-shrinking industrial base. "Leisure developments will boom," he says.

The UK will remain the springboard for foreign property investment in Europe, he says. British developers need to start the search for overseas partners or risk missing out on the big European property schemes which will dominate the decade.

• Jones Lang Wootton reports that property sectors have shown a negative capital growth over the quarter. In the industrial sector, however, a marginal increase of 0.6 per cent has occurred.

A green future at the office

A new survey highlights growing concerns by tenants about energy

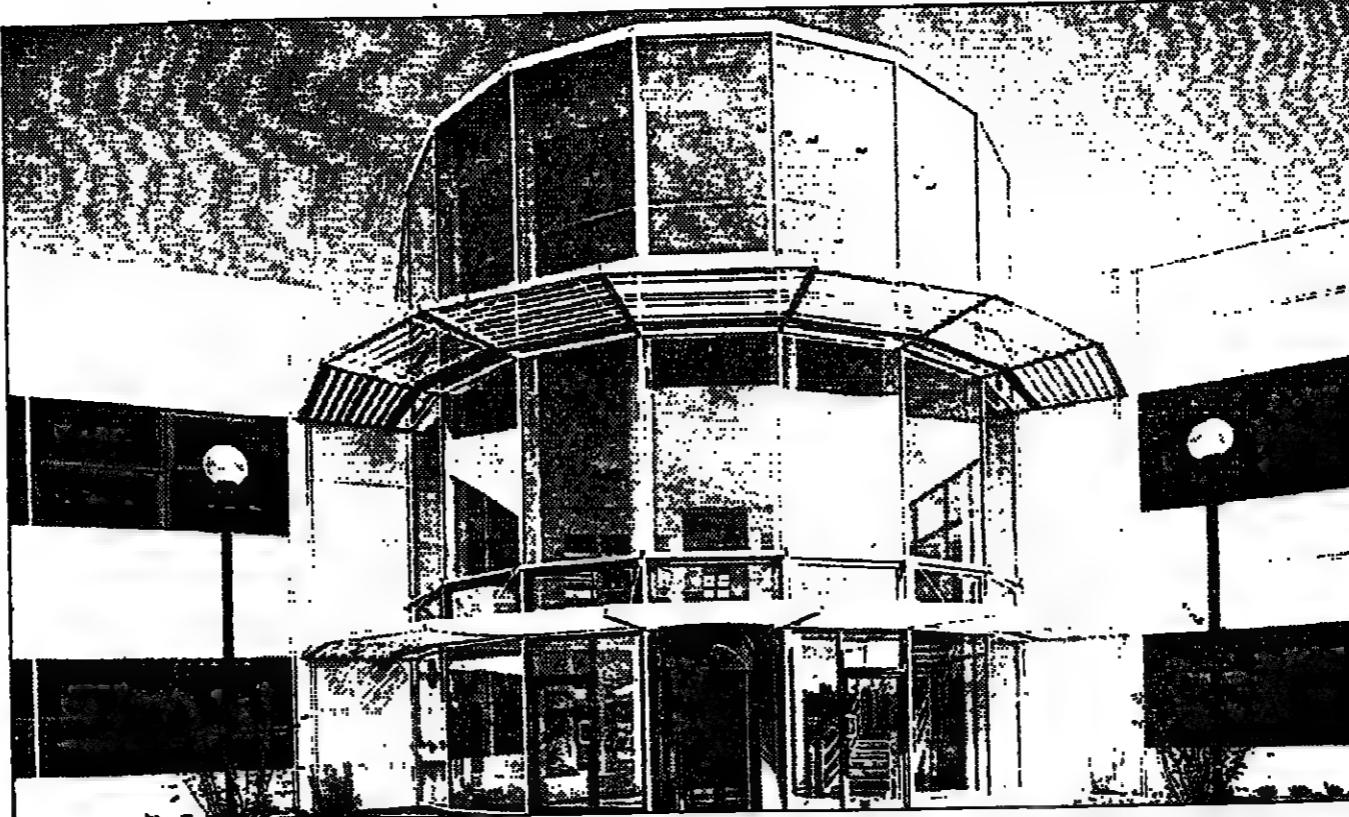
Energy efficiency and buildings that are "environmentally friendly" will become more important in the next few years, the property consultants Healey & Baker predict in a report on office design and use.

The firm's National Office and Business Survey, the result of interviews with 245 office tenants in all regions of Britain, shows also that 41 per cent of office tenants would be prepared to pay more rent for a better designed building, and 46 per cent would prefer their own bespoke building.

Angus McIntosh, head of research at Healey & Baker, believes companies will have to decide on expansion plans at an earlier stage in order to become involved in design. He says: "Tenants' ambitions for better design are only likely to be met if they are able to commit their expansion programmes at an earlier date and thus participate in the round of design meetings, having agreed to take a pre-let."

The survey highlights changes that have occurred in the market since the last survey in 1985-86, most significantly illustrated by a new generation of office buildings located away from city centres. A thriving suburban market has been created by a combination of high city-centre rents and rates, rising levels of car ownership and planning laws.

Seventy-two per cent of firms moved premises in order to expand, but "company image", shortage of suitable alternative buildings, the quality of the working environment and a shortage of car parking are also important reasons.



Energy-efficient: the Power House in Milton Keynes's Energy Park, a 23,467 sq ft office headquarters building

Healey & Baker says tenants are placing greater emphasis on being accessible to markets and having good communications when choosing a new location. In the future, however, demographic changes will put staff availability high on the list.

Mr McIntosh comments: "In the next couple of years, we expect also to see tenants becoming increasingly concerned by cost, including rent, maintenance and rates."

The survey showed, surprisingly, that on average the quality of daylight is lower in new buildings than in those built before 1975, although it appears to be improving again in offices built since 1984. More than half of premises did not have good trunks for video display units. Three-quarters of tenants were not satisfied with the internal environmental control of their premises.

Concern over the greenhouse effect will

mean more emphasis on environmentally friendly materials. The Power House in the Energy Park at Milton Keynes is designed to save occupiers up to 50 per cent on running costs. The £5 million building has been developed by Energy Park Developments, which is owned by London & Edinburgh Trust and Bride Hall Developments. The building is available in suites from 4,520 sq ft through Savills, Connell Wilson and Chesterton.

■ Probably the biggest building to be completed in Mayfair within the next 12 months - Imry Merchant Developers and Speyhawk Mount Row's 5,200 sq ft development at 20 North Audley Street, London W1 - has been topped out.

Behind the retained facade, the building will provide air-conditioned offices on five floors. The joint agents, Jones Lang Wootton, Healey & Baker and Sinclair Goldsmith, will be seeking a rental around £80 a sq ft.

The scheme, designed by architects Roche Judd, is due for completion next year.

■ Piccadilly Securities, one of Britain's leaders in the acquisition and development of prime commercial land in the Pas de Calais and northern periphery of Paris, has acquired a hotel site at Roissy, on the perimeter road of Charles de Gaulle airport.

The 2.5-acre site has planning consent for a 2/3 star hotel of 156 bedrooms.

In addition to the Roissy site, the firm has bought a two-acre site close to EuroDisney for a similar sized hotel project.

■ Camden Borough Council is asking for bids from developers for a 100,000 sq ft landmark office development to include the council's Grade II listed Holborn Town Hall.

The proposed scheme will involve the retention and refurbishment of the town hall and former library premises in High Holborn, totalling 43,115 sq ft, and a new development of 55,885 sq ft at the rear.

John Ely, of the sole agents, Bernard Thorpe, describes it as "probably the most important mid-town site for many years", and bids are required by the end of July.

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Digression to dispel doubts with Predominate victory

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

DURING the last 20 years Goodwood's N M Financial Predominate Stakes has not been conspicuous as a successful Derby trial.

In that period, only Troy, in 1979, has won both the trial and the Epsom classic. Since then, eight of the winners of the Goodwood race have sought to follow suit, but the best place mustered has been a fifth ranging up to a disappointing thirteenth.

It against that somewhat inauspicious backdrop that Digression, the current ante-post favourite for this year's Derby, makes his belated seasonal debut on the lovely West Sussex track this afternoon.

But for wrenching a hook he would have contested the 2,000 Guineas or one of the early Derby trials by now.

Time is the all-important factor when dealing with that sort of injury and Guy Harwood has not been able to risk running Digression

sooner. He has, however, been able to give him sufficient groundwork at Pulborough, Fonthill, and Lingfield to be hopeful of a satisfactory outcome today.

I was impressed by Digression when watching him win initially at Kempton and then again at Ascot as a two-year-old. At Ascot, I liked the way that he finished at the end of a mile to put daylight between himself and his nearest pursuers and land the prestigious Royal Lodge Stakes.

While it has to be said that it is possible to pick holes in that form now, it is still the race that pointed to St Paddy, Royal Palace and Shirley Heights winning the Derby. Those who have plunged on Digression this spring are banking on the Royal Lodge holding the key again.

Digression's opposition today includes Elmaamul, who just managed to beat Raj Wali, another Pulborough in-

mate, at Kempton first time out.

Afterwards, Elmaamul's chance of finishing in the frame in the 2,000 Guineas was not improved when he got a hefty bump from Machiavellian coming down Bush Hill.

Razeen, Steve Cauthen's pick of Henry Cecil's two runners, is the full-brother to Warshaw, the winner of the corresponding race 12 months ago. First time out, Razeen had only three-quarters of a length to spare over Silca An'Key who is one of his rivals again.

Since then, Silca An'Key has been trounced by Lord Charmer at Newmarket while Razeen has just managed to win a match at Sandown albeit when giving a useful opponent 3lb.

It says something for Razeen that Cauthen has chosen him in preference to Shavian, who did after all finish only 1½ lengths behind Tiro in the Craven Stakes.

Shavian is a half-brother to one Ascot Gold Cup winner, Pacan, while Regimental Arms, the only other runner in today's field, is a half-brother to another, Gildorom. It remains to be seen whether either of them can match Digression's American blend of speed and stamina. I have my doubts.

So Digression is taken to trigger off a double for Pulborough, a double to be completed by Cacoethes, who is napped to win the Festival Stakes.

Last season, Cacoethes was seen at his best when winning at Brighton and Lingfield in the spring and when he was runner-up to Nashwan and his stable companion, Le De Chypre at Ascot and York later in the year. In that sort of form, he should prove capable of conceding weight away all round this afternoon.

Blinded first time
GOODWOOD: 4:10 Baro Row.

Zoman in demand for Derby

By CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

ZOMAN, runner-up to Linamix who won the French 2,000 Guineas at Longchamp in a record time, attracted support yesterday from 10-1 to 8-1 with Ladbrokes for the Derby.

The Affirmed colt, who has only raced twice in his life, was rated to be in good order.

"We will not be going to the racecourse gallop," said Paul Cole. "He has been working well at home."

Other Derby news concerned Digression, a runner in today's Predominate Stakes at Goodwood, who was shortened from 4-1 to 7-2 with Hills. The son of Frankel won Rock Hopper from 6-1 to 5-1.

In The Grove, the impressive winner of the Musidora Stakes at York last Tuesday, lines up for Saturday's Godfis Irish 1,000 Guineas at the Curragh with Steve Cauthen in the saddle.

"There is two weeks between the races and it's possible that she will also go for the Oaks," reported Chris Hill.

6 & 8 THE 1,000 Guineas for the Godfis Irish 1,000 Guineas (7f) (Goddess of Ambris, Antaeus, Black and Blaz, Habiba, Heart of Joy, In the Grove, Lady of the Lake, Many Happy Returns, Ring of Light, Saravanna, Tandu, The Caretaker, Wedding Bouquet).

Sunshine all the way for Carson's 3,000th success

By JACK WATERMAN

IT WAS sunshine and champagne all the way for Willie Carson at Salisbury yesterday when he drove Hamdan Al-Maktoum's Kawaheba home in the 2,000 Guineas at the 3,000th barrier only the fourth jockey to ride 3,000 winners in this country.

Sir Gordon Richards, who had a special affection for this picturesque course and who leads the overall records ahead of Lester Piggott, Doug Smith and Carson himself, would certainly have approved the way the 47-year-old jockey evened out his career milestones.

Kawaheba, made 2-1 favourite, had jumped off quickly but Carson settled him down behind the leaders as Jaget made the running. But at halfway it was evident that the five times champion was going to have to extricate himself from a slight traffic problem. In his typical, driving fashion, Carson got to work and found a passage to the outside.

From then on, the 3,000-mark was in no doubt. Kidder passed the top of the straight with just over a furlong to go and Carson and Carson were a triumphant three lengths clear at the line.

A great, cheering reception followed as he availed them all in unadulterated closure and, although Kawaheba was still unaware of the occasion and was reluctant to go into the winner's circle, Carson was all smiles.

Slipped a bottle of champagne as he went to weigh in, he was soon out again to receive a jerothoan, no less, of Veuve Clicquot from Lord Margadale, chairman of the Bury Club.

About his earlier days as an apprentice, first to Gerald Armstrong in Yorkshire and later, Gerald's brother, "Sam" Armstrong, at Newmarket where he was a product of the renowned

Armstrong riding academy, he said: "In fact, I almost never made it at all. I was beaten a short head at Caterick and then 'grounded' for two months by Sam and it was Les Hall who really started me again."

Of all the 3,000 winners which was his best? Carson unhesitatingly nominated his 2,000 Guineas and Derby in 1989, Nasheed, "Alibore," he said. "I don't want to forget Habibi and Rose Bowl, and poor old Troy seems to get pushed into the background these days. But Nasheed was a true champion. He was a dream to ride and the complete horse — one who could win and do nice things."

And as ever, he ended with a quip. Asked what was his best plane ride, he turned from the weighing room steps, with a huge laugh, appropriate to the occasion. "The one I didn't have," he said (a reference to the weekend when the plane he should have been on landed with its wheels up).

Before and after this pleasant interlude in racing history, however, John Williams and David Elsworth were not to be outdone in a share of the afternoon's honours. They completed a double with Take Heart, top weight at 13-3 for the Bishopton Handicap and Maryland Willie, a 4-1 chance in the Laversock Maiden Stakes.

Take Heart and Sally's Won were well clear of the rest of the field at the elbow. Take Heart went on at the distance and was kept going well by John Williams to withstand by a length the strong late challenge of 20-1 chance Insisted Love.

Elsworth explained: "It's extraordinary to tell you that a four-year-old filly numbers." He paid tribute to John Williams's handling of the filly, who is entered in the Royal Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot. However, Elsworth, as ever laconic, said: "What we want is about 1st 2lb."

Kinane chasing more classic glory with The Caretaker

By PAUL WHEELER

MICHAEL Kinane, Ireland's champion jockey, who partnered Tiro in his 2,000 Guineas triumph at Newmarket, is hoping to add to his classic haul on Saturday when he rides The Caretaker in the Irish 1,000 Guineas at the Curragh.

Kinane missed out on another winning ride on Tiro in last Saturday's Irish 2,000 Guineas after being claimed by partner Louis Pool for his retained

lotus Pool finished third behind Tiro, but there was no trace of complaint in Kinane's reaction. "I'm contracted to Mr Weld and don't expect otherwise, so there's no point crying over it," he said philosophically.

But he hopes for swift recompense with The Caretaker, who made a pleasing reappearance when winning the 1,000 Guineas Trial at Leopardstown earlier this month.

"We knew she hadn't really come to herself, but we had to race her to try and bring her forward," he said.

But it will be no easy task

against Heart of Joy, runner-up to Salbris at Newmarket three weeks ago.

"The Stoute filly looks pretty good, they drew a long way away from the other fillies at Newmarket," he conceded.

It was with The Caretaker that he made international headlines last year, winning the Cartier Millenium before storming to victory in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Chantilly Horse, 24 hours later.

Reflecting on that glorious weekend, he said: "It was great to get international recognition. I was just hoping, after last year, to get an early classic winner this season to follow it up. And it's been a dream start."

This, like so much of this essentially modest man, is an understatement. He is blessed with an ice-cool temperament and relishes the heat of the classic battle ahead. "Sure, you're always a little bit nervous," he said. "But I enjoy the big day. That's what we all work for, so you've got to be able to enjoy it."

Michael Kinane: Irish champion in demand

"It's something I keep pushing away from my mind. I've got a good job with Mr Weld, and there are only about four jockeys in England that ride more winners in a season than I do."

Home and family for Kinane is set within 23 lush acres of Co. Kildare, and he feels that his wife, Catherine, and two daughters, Siobhan and Aisling, must come first. "I'm very happy at home, and my family life is very good. You've got to be happy with what you're doing, and it's a question of would be happy in England?"

But his hand may eventually be forced by the Republic's crippling taxation levels, which in his case stand at 36 per cent. "It's a pretty heavy burden, and could be a big deciding factor," he said. "It's only a short career, so you've got to be happy with what you're doing, and it's a question of would be happy in England?"

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Along with the success has come sufficient financial rewards to allow Kinane to take something of a winter break at home, rather than making the annual trek out to ride in India.

"I actually only spent about 3½ weeks at home. I was riding in Japan and then had a holiday afterwards. In the early years going to India was a necessity because I couldn't afford not to ride for three or four months."

Golf is one of Kinane's recreations. He numbers among his friends Christy O'Connor Jr and has vivid memories of O'Connor's two-iron shot at the eighteenth hole which helped Europe to retain the Ryder Cup at the Belfry last year. "It was fantastic, and for anybody that knows Christy it was a moment to capture. I think I was as emotional as he was."

But for a man regarded by many as a perfectionist, business still holds sway for Kinane.

"I used to watch a lot of videos of races I'd ridden in the early days, and I still do a fair bit now.

"The day you stop thinking you're going to get better is the day you start declining," he said, adding with what seemed a knowing smile, "but I haven't got near to reaching my potential — I hope."

Yesterday's results from two meetings

Salisbury

Going firm
2:00 1. UNVERLED (J Reid) 9-7: 2. Densdale (P Eddie) 10-1: 3. Nettleton (N Aspinwall) 10-1: 4. ALSO RAN: 7. W Wheaten 10-1.

ALSO RAN: 7. Wheaten 12-1: 8. Stiles 12-1: 9. 11-1: 10. 12-1: 11. 13-1: 12. 14-1: 13. 15-1: 14. 16-1: 15. 17-1: 16-1: 17-1: 18-1: 19-1: 20-1: 21-1: 22-1: 23-1: 24-1: 25-1: 26-1: 27-1: 28-1: 29-1: 30-1: 31-1: 32-1: 33-1: 34-1: 35-1: 36-1: 37-1: 38-1: 39-1: 40-1: 41-1: 42-1: 43-1: 44-1: 45-1: 46-1: 47-1: 48-1: 49-1: 50-1: 51-1: 52-1: 53-1: 54-1: 55-1: 56-1: 57-1: 58-1: 59-1: 60-1: 61-1: 62-1: 63-1: 64-1: 65-1: 66-1: 67-1: 68-1: 69-1: 70-1: 71-1: 72-1: 73-1: 74-1: 75-1: 76-1: 77-1: 78-1: 79-1: 80-1: 81-1: 82-1: 83-1: 84-1: 85-1: 86-1: 87-1: 88-1: 89-1: 90-1: 91-1: 92-1: 93-1: 94-1: 95-1: 96-1: 97-1: 98-1: 99-1: 100-1: 101-1: 102-1: 103-1: 104-1: 105-1: 106-1: 107-1: 108-1: 109-1: 110-1: 111-1: 112-1: 113-1: 114-1: 115-1: 116-1: 117-1: 118-1: 119-1: 120-1: 121-1: 122-1: 123-1: 124-1: 125-1: 126-1: 127-1: 128-1: 129-1: 130-1: 131-1: 132-1: 133-1: 134-1: 135-1: 136-1: 137-1: 138-1: 139-1: 140-1: 141-1: 142-1: 143-1: 144-1: 145-1: 146-1: 147-1: 148-1: 149-1: 150-1: 151-1: 152-1: 153-1: 154-1: 155-1: 156-1: 157-1: 158-1: 159-1: 160-1: 161-1: 162-1: 163-1: 164-1: 165-1: 166-1: 167-1: 168-1: 169-1: 170-1: 171-1: 172-1: 173-1: 174-1: 175-1: 176-1: 177-1: 178-1: 179-1: 180-1: 181-1: 182-1: 183-1: 184-1: 185-1: 186-1: 187-1: 188-1: 189-1: 190-1: 191-1: 192-1: 193-1: 194-1: 195-1: 196-1: 197-1: 198-1: 199-1: 200-1: 201-1: 202-1: 203-1: 204-1: 205-1: 206-1: 207-1: 208-1: 209-1: 210-1: 211-1: 212-1: 213-1: 214-1: 215-1: 216-1: 217-1: 218-1: 219-1: 220-1: 221-1: 222-1: 223-1: 224-1: 225-1: 226-1: 227-1: 228-1: 229-1: 230-1: 231-1: 232-1: 233-1: 234-1: 235-1: 236-1: 237-1: 238-1: 239-1: 240-1: 241-1: 242-1: 243-1: 244-1: 245-1: 246-1: 247-1: 248-1: 249-1: 250-1: 251-1: 252-1: 253-1: 254-1: 255-1: 256-1: 257-1: 258-1: 259-1: 260-1: 261-1: 262-1: 263-1: 264-1: 265-1: 266-1: 267-1: 268-1: 269-1: 270-1: 271-1: 272-1: 273-1: 274-1: 275-1: 276-1: 277-1: 278-1: 279-1: 280-1: 281-1: 282-1: 283-1: 284-1: 285-1: 286-1: 287-1: 288-1: 289-1: 290-1: 291-1: 292-1: 293-1: 294-1: 295-1: 296-1: 297-1: 298-1: 299-1: 300-1: 301-1: 302-1: 303-1: 304-1: 305-1: 306-1: 307-1: 308-1: 309-1: 310-1: 311-1: 312-1: 313-1: 314-1: 315-1: 316-1: 317-1: 318-1: 319-1: 320-1: 321-1: 322-1: 323-1: 324-1: 325-1: 326-1: 327-1: 328-1: 329-1: 330-1: 331-1: 332-1: 333-1: 334-1: 335-1: 336-1: 337-

The England captain prepares for the summer's campaign with a warning not to underestimate the touring New Zealanders

Gooch unswerving in the quest for glory

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Graham Gooch's most agreeable characteristics is his solid sense of perspective. Feed him a line of hyperbole and he will treat you to a withering put-down. Today, as England resume the high-speed international circuit after the briefest of pit stops, Gooch's personality has a positive virtue.

It is precisely five weeks since England completed their Caribbean tour. The ink is barely dry on the scorebook of a series which might have ended predictably, but contained much which was dramatically different. Gooch came home with his stock at an all-time high and now, as he is aware, the nation expects.

Having come so close to an unthinkable victory over the West Indies, New Zealand will present no problem. Or so the

popular theory has it. Moreover, there will be many who anticipate this week's two Texaco Trophy internationals, of 55 overs a side, giving a reliable forecast of the three-Test series to come.

Gooch, mercifully, will have none of this. Seated yesterday, sipping tea beneath the cathedral in Worcester, he presented a more confident and relaxed figure than of old. The ghosts of political pressure and public misconceptions have been exorcised.

He is batting better than ever and loving every surprising minute as captain of Essex and England. Yet with life so rosy, those plodding feet stay firmly on the ground. "I am sure expectations will be higher this summer," he admitted. "Fair enough, because we did well in the West Indies. But one win and a couple of good performances don't count for much."

"We cannot say we are



Gooch: Batting at his best

really making progress until we start to win regularly. We still have a long way to go and we have to move forward this summer."

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CAREER RECORDS

England batting and fielding

	M	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50 Cnt	W	100	50 Cnt
P A J DeFreitas	49	33	13	342	3317.10	100	50	19	19
N H Pather	11	12	2	322	3222.00	—	—	19	19
G A Gooch	81	79	14	5008	142.11	7	18	37	37
D I Gower	105	102	8	3030	15832.23	7	11	40	37
E E Hemmings	24	6	4	476	6.00	—	—	4	4
A J Lamb	95	91	12	3224	11842.59	4	25	25	25
C O Lewis	3	0	0	42	125.11	—	—	4	4
D R Pringle	25	20	8	338	28.25	—	—	102	102
G C Small	37	18	8	55	18.57	—	—	4	4
R A Smith	16	15	3	49	87.41	—	—	4	4
R A Studd	11	9	1	153	61.66	—	—	4	4
Bowling									
P A J DeFreitas	255	1707	58	23.63	32	4-35	—	—	—
G A Gooch	1574	1105	14	40.83	14	—	—	—	—
D I Gower	105	102	8	3030	15832.23	—	—	—	—
E E Hemmings	1200	671	30	23.03	3	—	—	—	—
A J Lamb	95	91	12	3224	11842.59	—	—	—	—
C O Lewis	3	0	0	42	125.11	—	—	—	—
D R Pringle	25	20	8	338	28.25	—	—	—	—
G C Small	37	18	8	55	18.57	—	—	—	—
R A Smith	16	15	3	49	87.41	—	—	—	—
R A Studd	11	9	1	153	61.66	—	—	—	—
Sources: TCCB/BuS									

Compiled by Richard Lockwood

Source: TCCB/BuS

New Zealand batting and fielding

	M	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50 Cnt	W	100	50 Cnt
J G Gooch	53	43	12	512	43.65	1	19	19	19
J J Cropley	71	12	—	1520	88.25	—	—	7	7
M D Crows	67	—	—	2760	105.35	—	—	19	19
T J Franklin	3	0	—	27	21.00	—	—	37	37
R J Hadlee	113	95	18	1728	79.25	—	—	4	4
A H Jones	36	35	14	1459	53.47	—	—	16	16
J P Milloway	3	1	0	0	0	—	—	5	5
D K Morrison	22	8	3	24	9.40	—	—	—	—
R Kutherford	42	41	4	1028	79.77	—	—	15	15
I D S Smith	71	54	63	62.42	—	—	—	2	2
M C Snedden	85	54	19	535	15.28	—	—	20	20
S A Thomson	8	6	1	15	4.50	—	—	—	—
J G Wright	124	101	27	22	—	—	—	19	19
Bowling									
J G Gooch	2447	1885	53	37.05	42	2-23	—	—	—
J J Cropley	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
M D Crows	1144	816	27	30.22	42	2-23	—	—	—
R J Hadlee	8050	3327	154	21.50	32	5-23	—	—	—
A H Jones	42	22	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
J P Milloway	1085	838	29	31.51	54	4-33	—	—	—
M W Pries	42	43	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
R Kutherford	365	228	9	33.11	50	2-39	—	—	—
M C Snedden	4519	2238	114	28.25	42	4-33	—	—	—
S A Thomson	271	210	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
J G Wright	24	8	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sources: TCCB/BuS									

Compiled by Richard Lockwood

Source: TCCB/BuS

passes a late fitness test.

Oddly enough, it is Snedden who will have one of the key roles. New Zealand's one-day record is not good – their only win in this country came four years ago in Leeds, when England played wretchedly – and if they are to compete, their bowling will need far more discipline than has been evident so far.

Richard Hadlee, it need hardly be said, will rise to the occasion but so too will Snedden, in his tidy, unassuming way. This pair apart, as Gooch may well have discovered when he asked his county coach, Keith Fletcher, to watch the tourists for him last week, the bowling is not designed to inhibit strokeplay.

New Zealand's strength is their batting, likely to be led off by the captain, John Wright, and Andrew Jones, who has made 16 fifties in 36 internationals.

Even Martin Snedden, scarcely a household name outside the city of Auckland, will be appearing in his 94th match today, provided he

passes a late fitness test.

There are those playing today who might be troubled by that description, failing to perceive anything very different in this round of overs cricket from their last. No fewer than six among the two teams have already played upwards of 90 such internationals.

What Gooch was transmit-

ting is this. Look neither back

nor forward this week. What

you will see, at Headington

today and the Oval on Friday,

is what England's one-day

ambition, under Gooch, is

a renaissance at Test level

and one-day games, when

they appear on the schedule,

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SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 23 1990

Epic sealed in majestic style

By BARRY PICKTHALL

PETER Blake and his victorious crew sailed their New Zealand ketch Steinlager 2 majestically back into the Solent yesterday to win the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race by an equally masterful 36 hours.

Running the gauntlet through an armada of over-eager well-wishers that at times threatened to ram the 84ft red yacht, Blake's crew crossed the line off Ocean Village in Southampton Water at 5.23pm, to win this final 3,300-mile stage from Fort Lauderdale by 36 minutes from their New Zealand rivals on Fisher & Paykel.

The previous night, the two yachts had been level until Grant Dalton and his crew fell victim to a hole in the wind of Plymouth, leaving Steinlager to ghost on through the still air to build up a five-mile lead by day-break.

This was Blake's sixth successive stage-win, but though he and his crew have dominated this 33,000-mile circumnavigation since leading the fleet out of the Solent last September, the jinx that has robbed him of overall honours during four previous circumnavigations came close to striking again just four days out from the Florida stop-over.

The skipper, aged 41, who lives at Emsworth, Hampshire, reported yesterday that they came close to being dismasted when the port chain plate holding the mizzen shroud and running backstay support to the yacht's main mast suddenly failed. Blake said: "There was a loud bang and the mizzen mast started swaying like a piece of spaghetti."

The situation was saved only by the split-second reactions of the crew, who threw the boat into a crash gybe to transfer the strain to the opposite rigging. Had they hesitated, the unsupported mainmast would have plunged forward over the yacht and carried the mizzen mast with it.

The crash gybe prevented this and the crew later managed to jury-rig a new fitting by taking a main engine bearer from beneath the engine and bolting it to the inside of the yacht to relieve the strain on the failed fitting. The damage forced the crew to be over-cautious in heavy winds and worry each time they tacked.

Yesterday, the only clues to this drama were two supporting lines of red rope attached to the ends of Steinlager's mizzen spreaders and tied down to her deck, but judging by the relief in Blake's face as he finally crossed the finish line, he was pleased it was all over.

"This has been the hardest race because of the strength of competition," he said, after his exuberant crew had bathed

him in beer. "This last leg was not pleasant sailing because of all the problems."

Steinlager is the fourth yacht to suffer serious rig damage during this testing final leg. The Italian maxi, Gatorade, suffered a broken top spreader, a diagonal shroud cost Lawrie Smith's British challenger, Rothmans, the lead, Salique British Defender was dismasted and on Sunday, the third-placed Swiss maxi, Merit, suffered a broken stay.

Last night, Blake, whose driving ambition during the past 17 years has been to win the Whitbread race, and who is the only man to have competed in all five classics, was unsure whether he would now hang his sea boots up.

Although he has been adamant throughout that this fifth Whitbread would be his last, when he was asked the inevitable question on arrival his answer was not quite so certain. "I'm going to take a year-long holiday, then decide whether to race again."

Back in New Zealand, the celebrations began with a vengeance after their yachts took first and second place overall. It is a remarkable achievement for such a small sailing nation.

The race was won during the first leg, when a 50-knot gale off Cape Finisterre decimated the fleet. Steinlager and Rothmans, which led at the time, ran off on opposite gybes, with Blake choosing to steer a course out into mid-Atlantic while Smith took the more direct route down the Portuguese coast.

Steinlager went on to win the stage to Uruguay by more than 12 hours, leaving Rothmans to struggle in with a split deck and the Fisher & Paykel crew to cope with a broken mizzen mast. From that point on, there has been little to divide the first four yachts.

Last night Merit was expected to take third place overall, after pulling 50 miles ahead of Rothmans during the final stage up the English Channel.

RESULTS: Leg Six, Maxi division: 1. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 0hrs 10m 10s; 2. Fisher & Paykel, NZ, 17 days 0m 55s; 3. Steinlager 2 (A2) 17 days 21m 16s; 4. Fisher & Paykel, NZ, 17 days 21m 16s; 5. Rothmans, Irl, 17 days 21m 16s; 6. Salique British Defender (Cdr C Waters, GB), 17 days 21m 16s; 7. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 21m 16s; 8. Merit, SUI, 17 days 21m 16s; 9. Gatorade, Ita, 17 days 21m 16s; 10. Vasa, Fin, 17 days 21m 16s; 11. Gatorade, Ita, 17 days 21m 16s; 12. Salique British Defender (Cdr C Waters, GB), 17 days 21m 16s; 13. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 21m 16s; 14. Fisher & Paykel, NZ, 17 days 21m 16s; 15. Rothmans, Irl, 17 days 21m 16s; 16. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 21m 16s; 17. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 21m 16s; 18. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 21m 16s; 19. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 21m 16s; 20. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 21m 16s; 21. Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 17 days 21m 16s; 22. 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